

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

69

MEET ME



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ISANOUE

BENDIS
BAGLEY
HANNA

MARVEL®

The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers: strength, agility, a spider-like sixth sense warning him of personal danger, and most amazing of all-- Peter can walk on walls. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power there must also come great responsibility!

PREVIOUSLY

#68



ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN "MEET ME"

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Now the fledgling super hero tries to balance a full high school curriculum, a night job as a web designer for the *Daily Bugle* tabloid, a friendship with the beautiful Mary Jane Watson, and swing time as the misunderstood, web-slinging Spider-Man.

Two brilliant scientists, Reed Richards and Sue Storm; Reed's best friend Ben Grimm and Sue's younger brother, Johnny, pierced the barrier to the N-Zone and through a strange accident acquired fantastic powers. Reed's body stretches like a rubber band, Sue turns invisible and can make invisible force fields, Johnny lights up like a torch and can fly and Ben has turned into a super-strong, rocky thing. Though they are just starting new lives as adventurers, they do know one thing: the world will never be the same.

Previously in Ultimate Spider-Man:

Peter Parker is still reeling from the violent death of his friend Gwen Stacy at the hands of Carnage, a genetic monstrosity half cloned from Peter's DNA.

The other three members of the F.F. convince Johnny Storm to go back to high school and get his diploma while keeping his flame power a secret. He enrolls at Peter Parker's school, Midtown High. While at a beach party at Coney Island, Johnny inadvertently flames on.

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Liz!

AGH!!

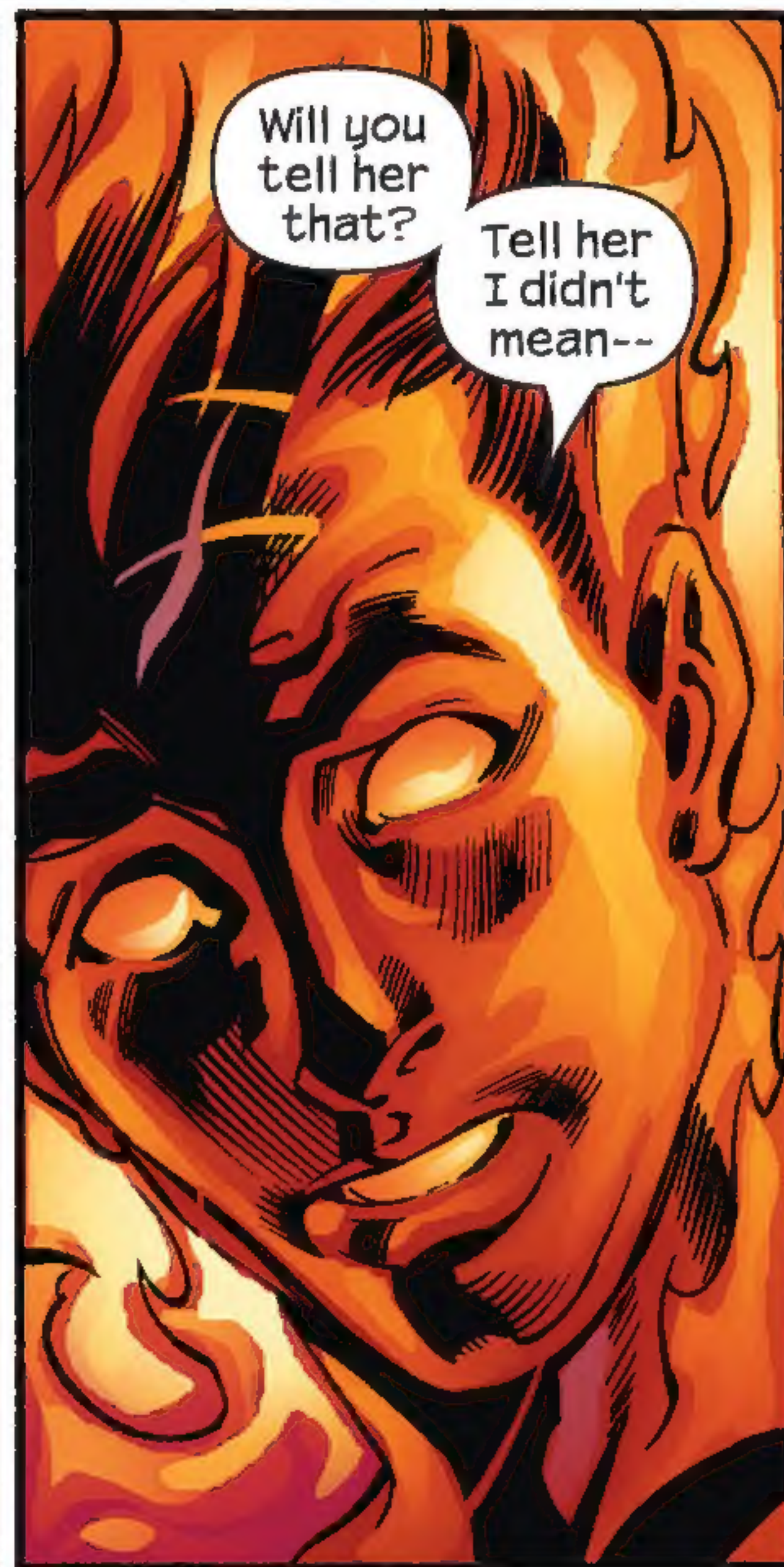
Sorry, I-
sorry.

I didn't
realize that
the bonfire
would be
attracted
to me like
that.

IF I- IF I
knew that...I
wouldn't--

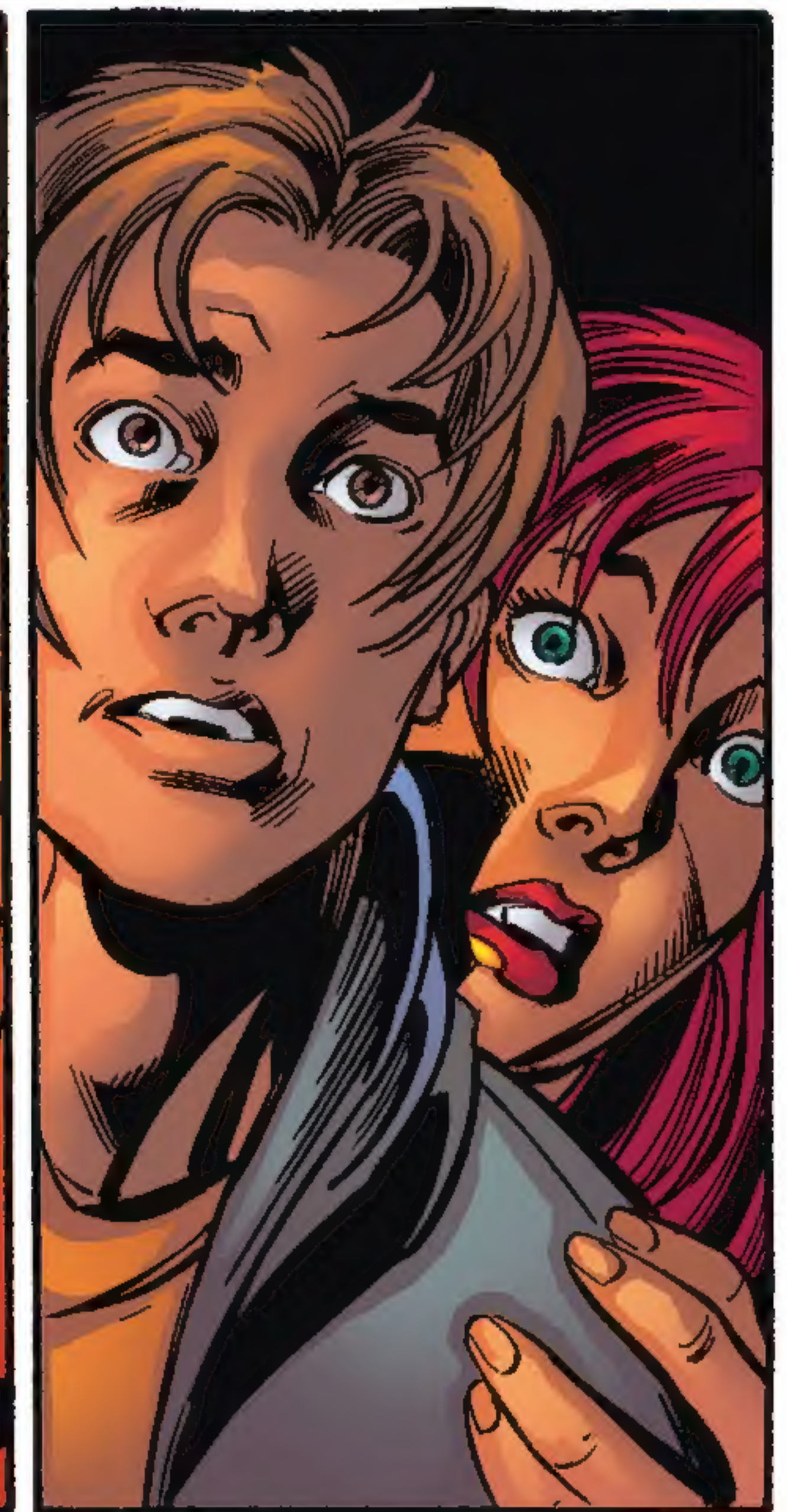


I just- I
didn't mean
to freak
everyone
out.



Will you
tell her
that?

Tell her
I didn't
mean--





What was *that*?

I have no idea.

Peter, why didn't you *do* anything?

Like *what*?

I don't know.

MJ, he didn't *attack* us and, um, I'm pretty sure I'm not fireproof.

Sorry. It was a knee-jerk "my-boyfriend-is-a-super hero" thing.

You think he was a mutant?

I guess. I don't know.

We better find Liz. Hope she answers her cell.

Poor Liz.

Poor Liz? My eyebrows are singed.



The Baxter Building,
right in the heart of Manhattan.

Oh,
Johnny.
You're home.



When did you
get back, little
brother?

Minute
ago.

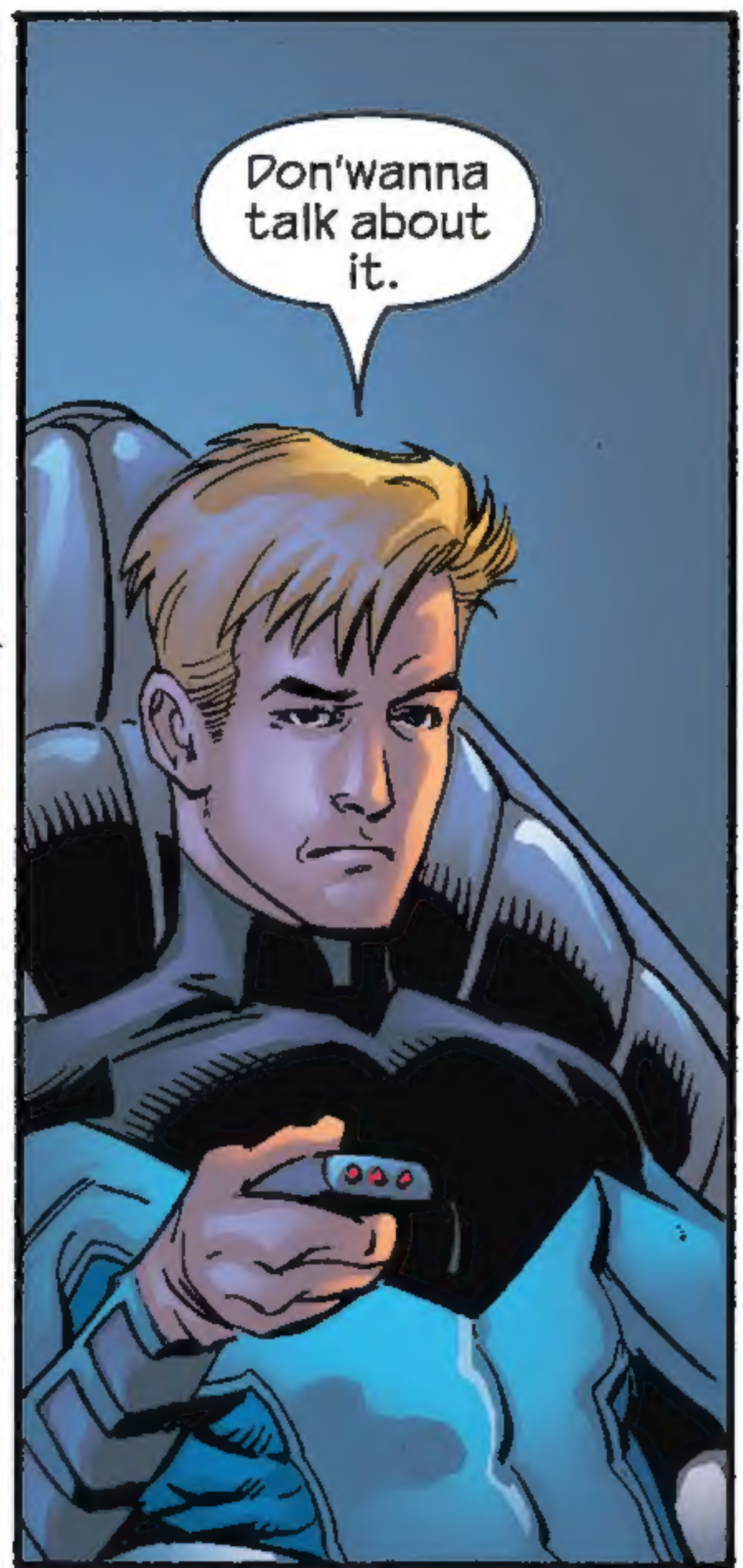
Reed was
worried. He said
you used your
flame powers.

Was an
accident.

You're
okay?

Tired.

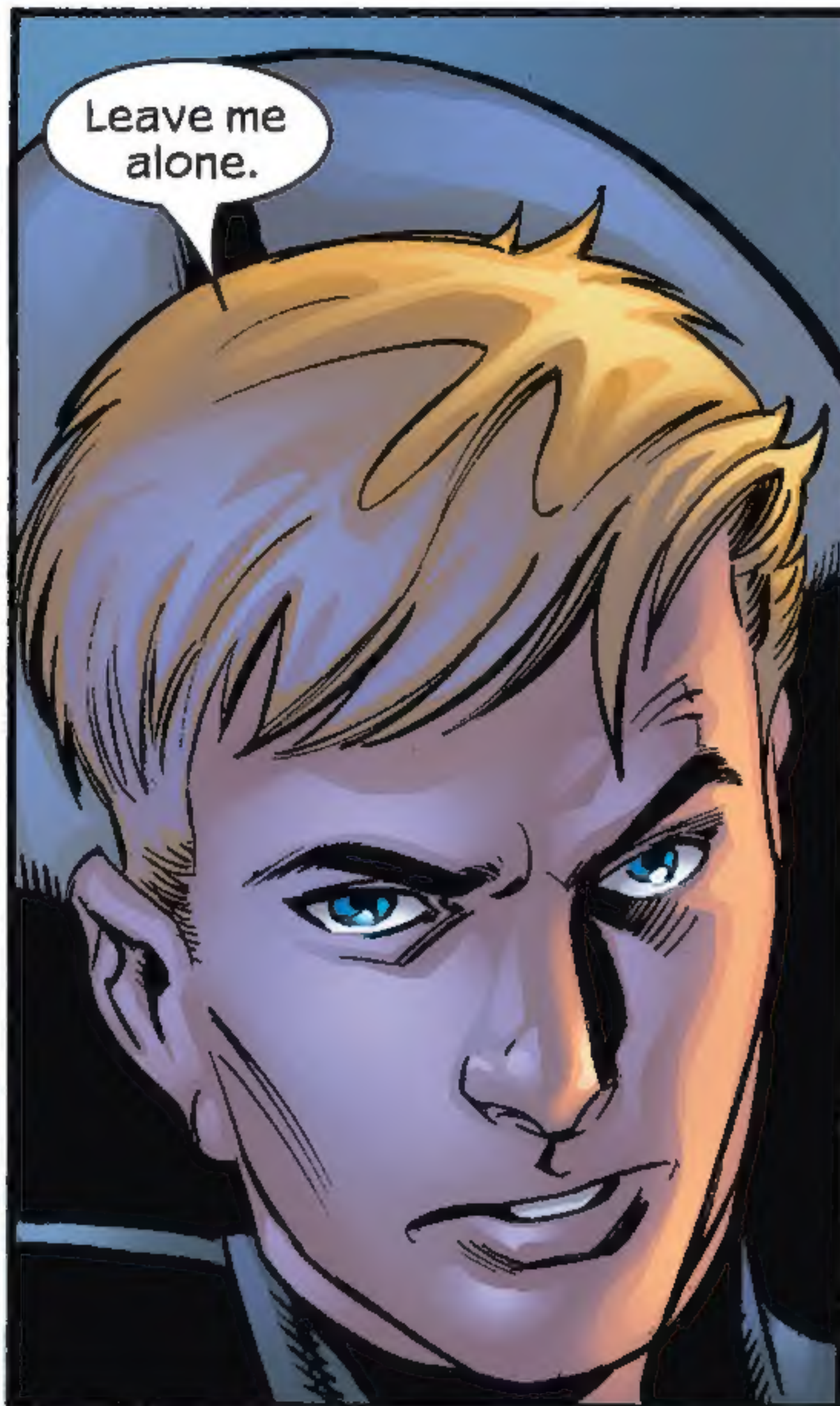
So...
is she
nice?



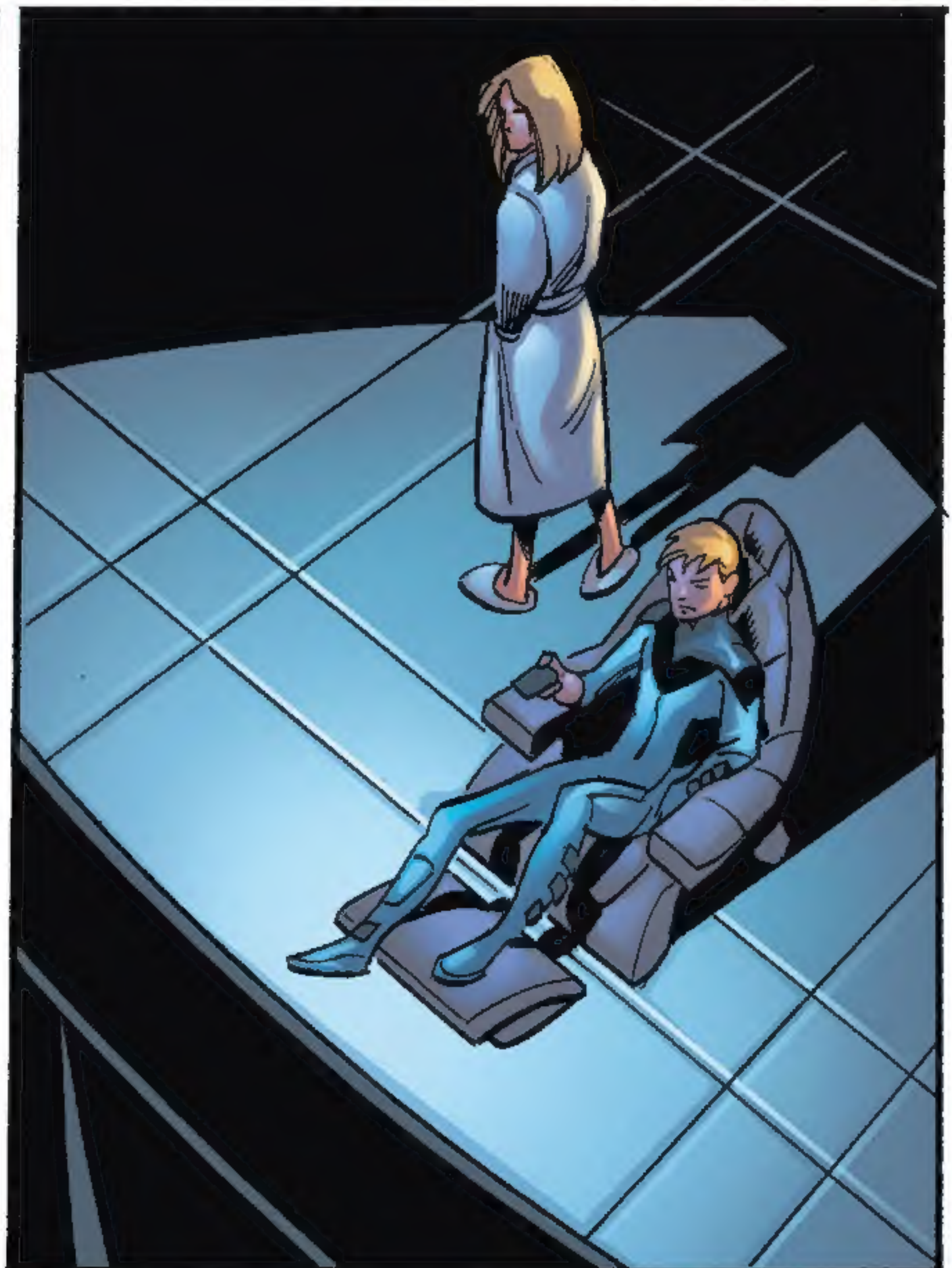
Don't wanna
talk about
it.



You want
a hot pretzel?
I was just going
to--



Leave me
alone.



I'm not
going back to
high school,
Sue.

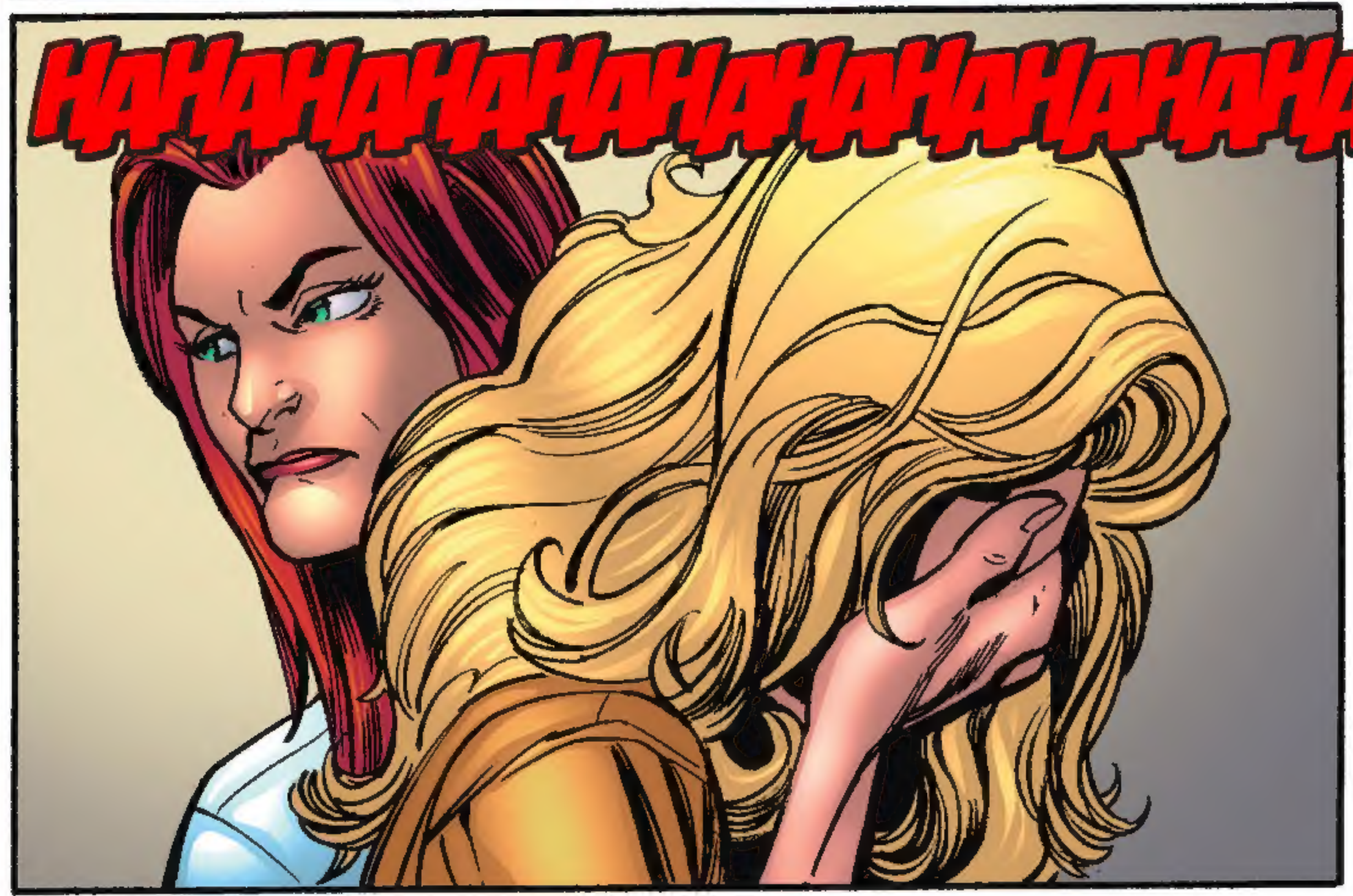
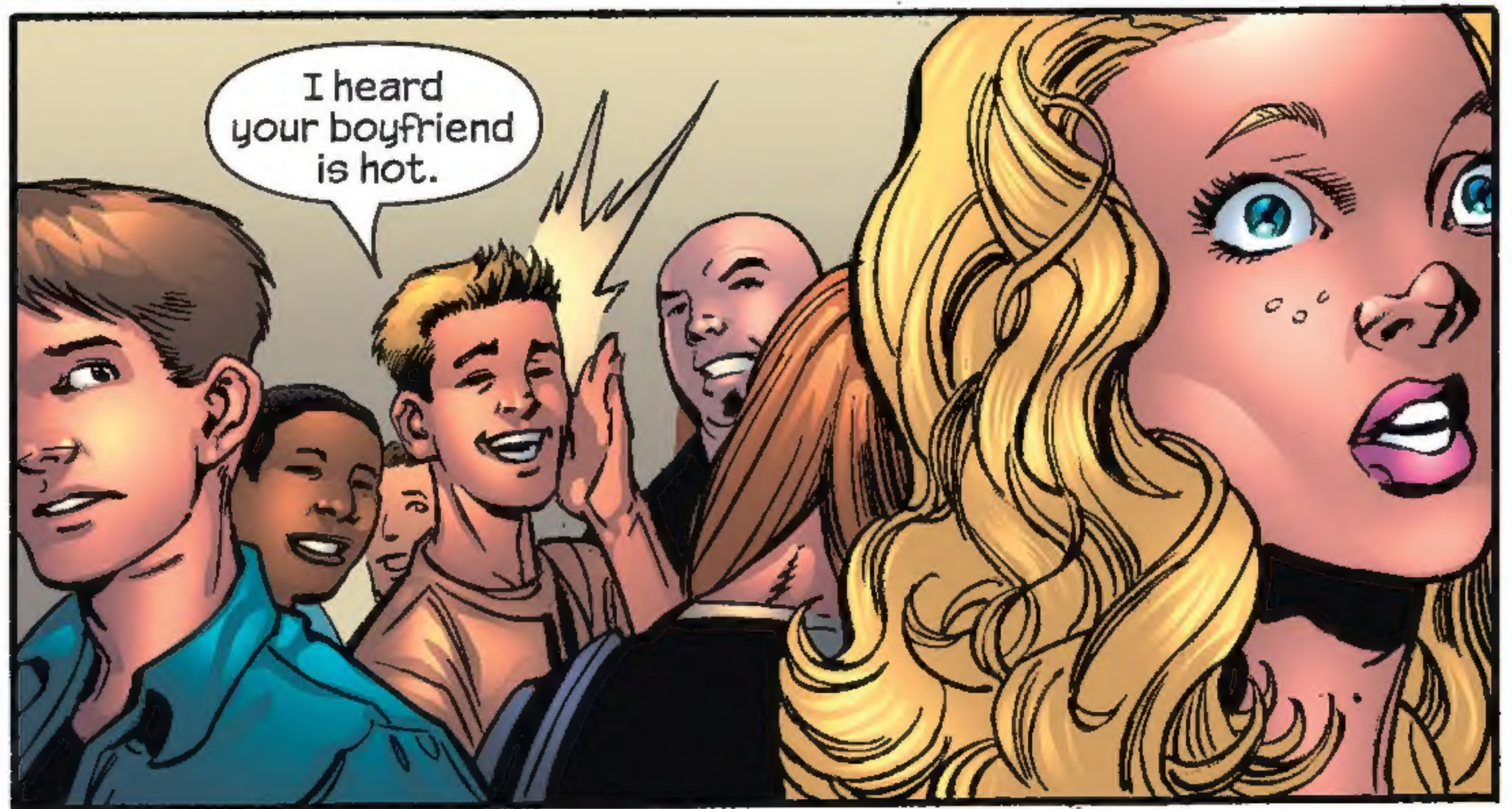
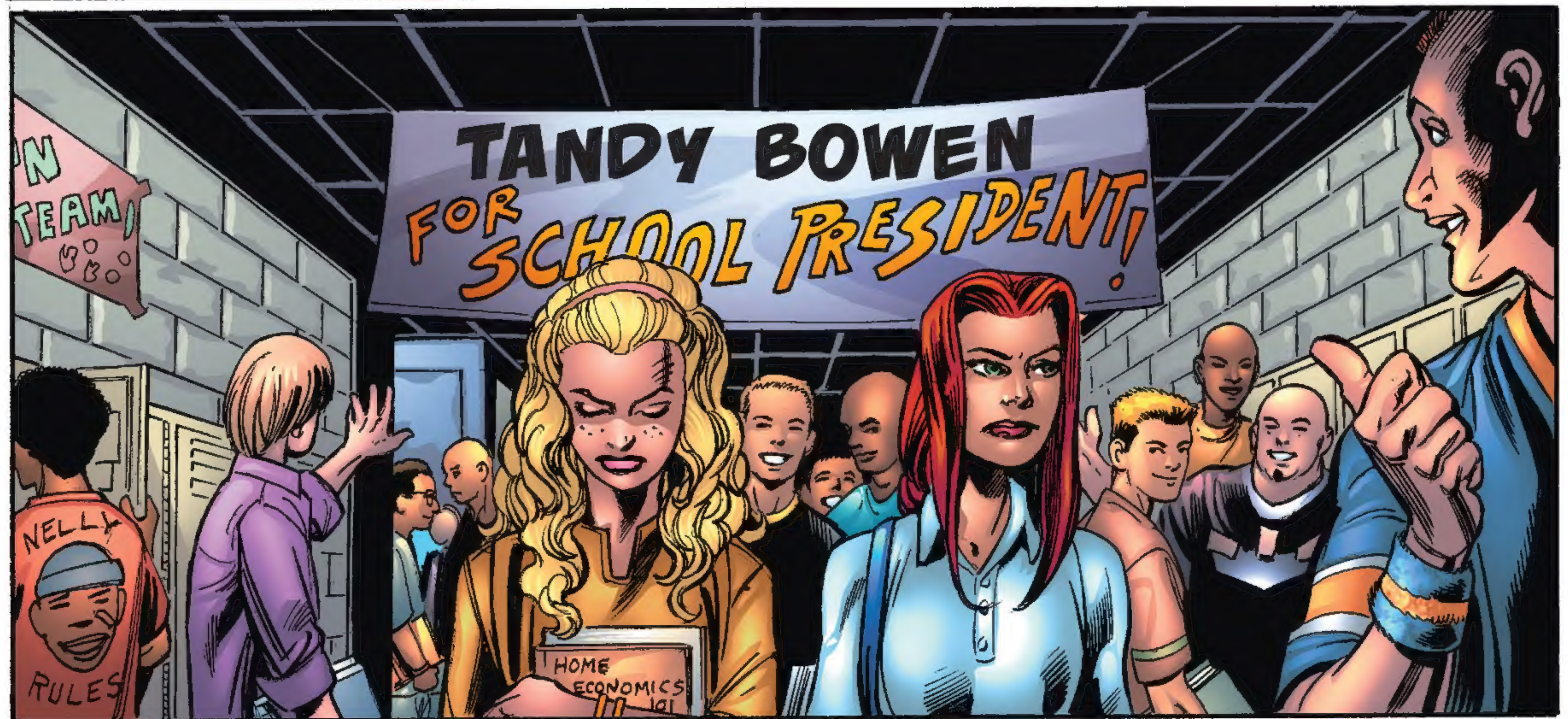
It's
done.

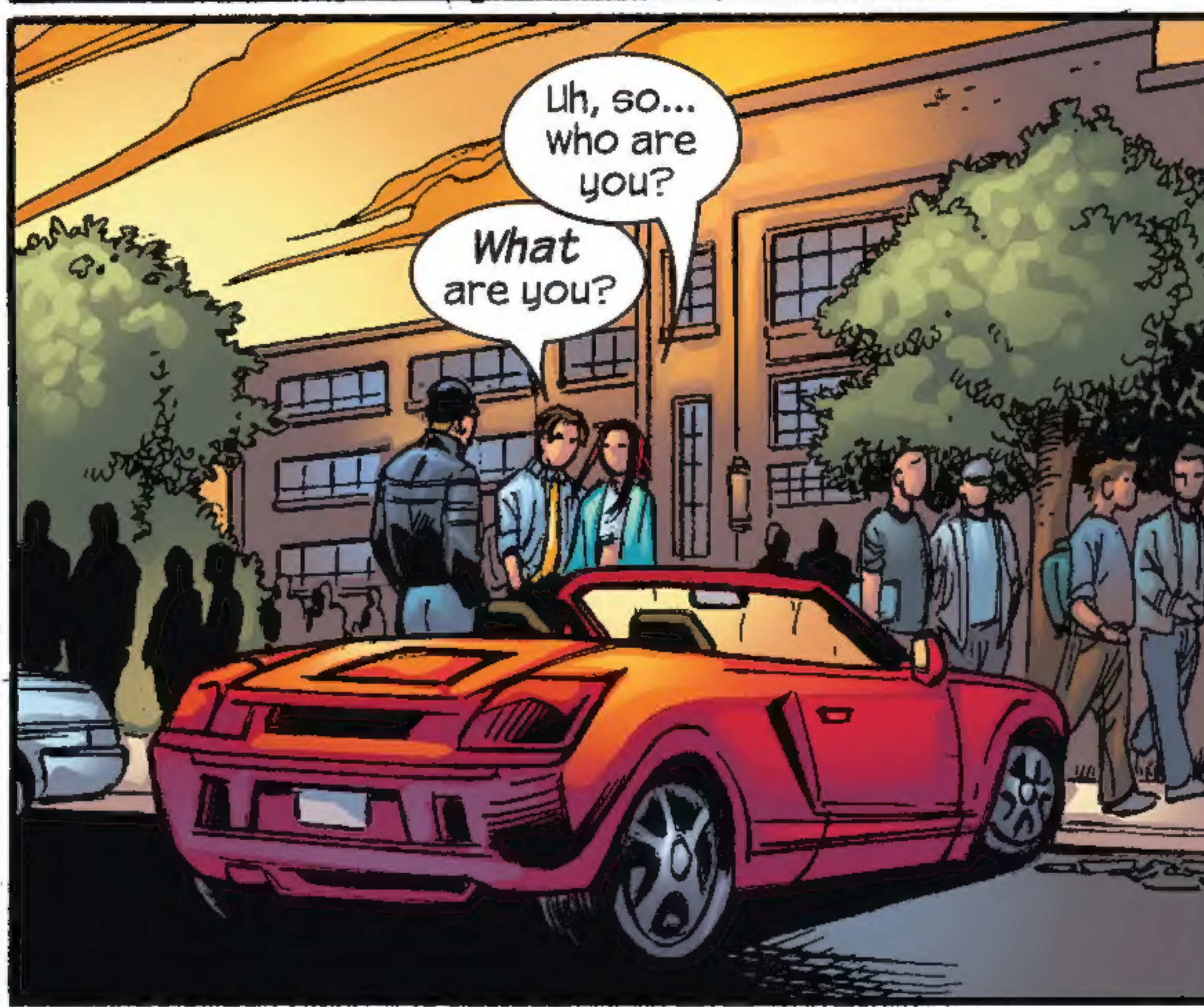
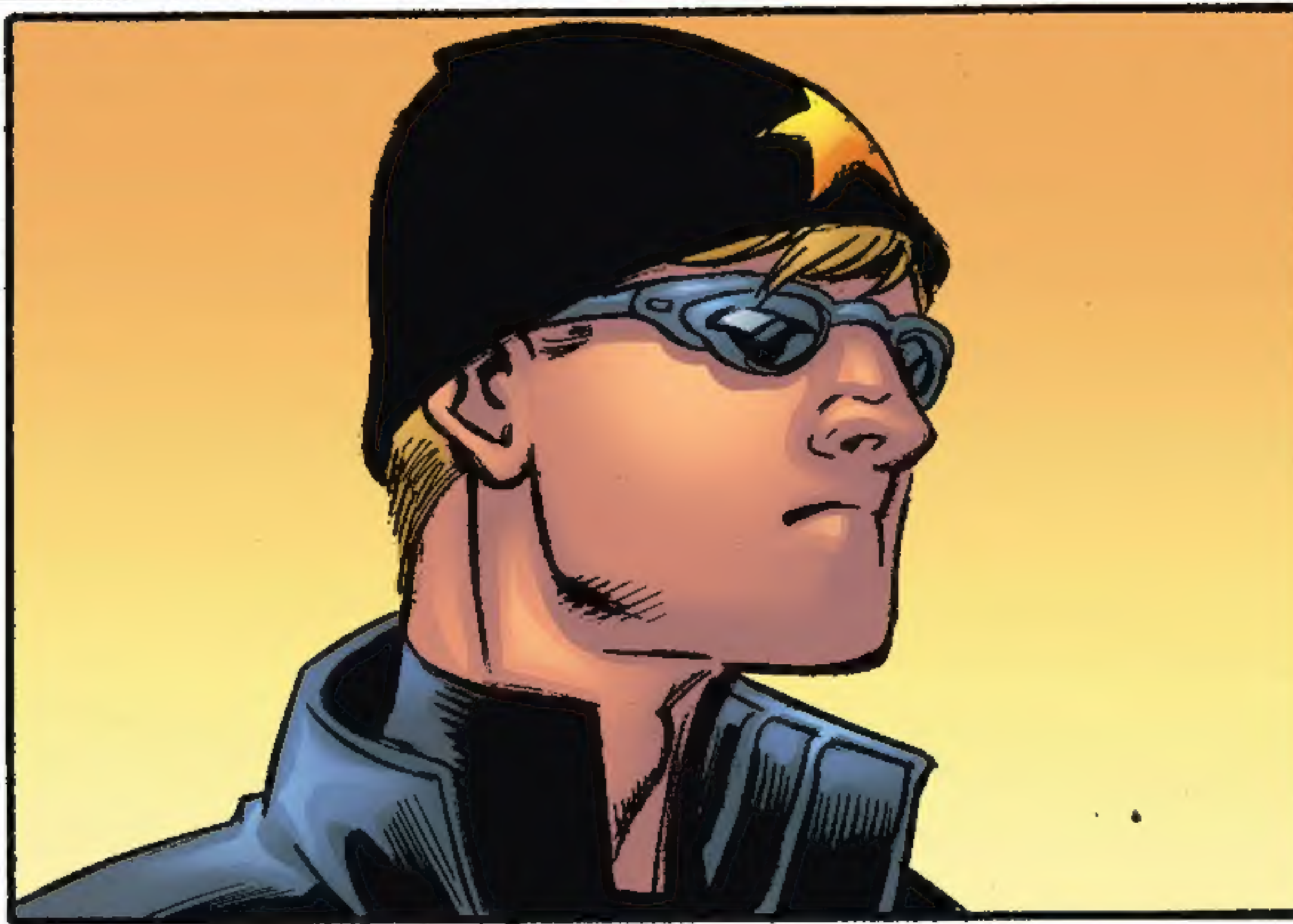
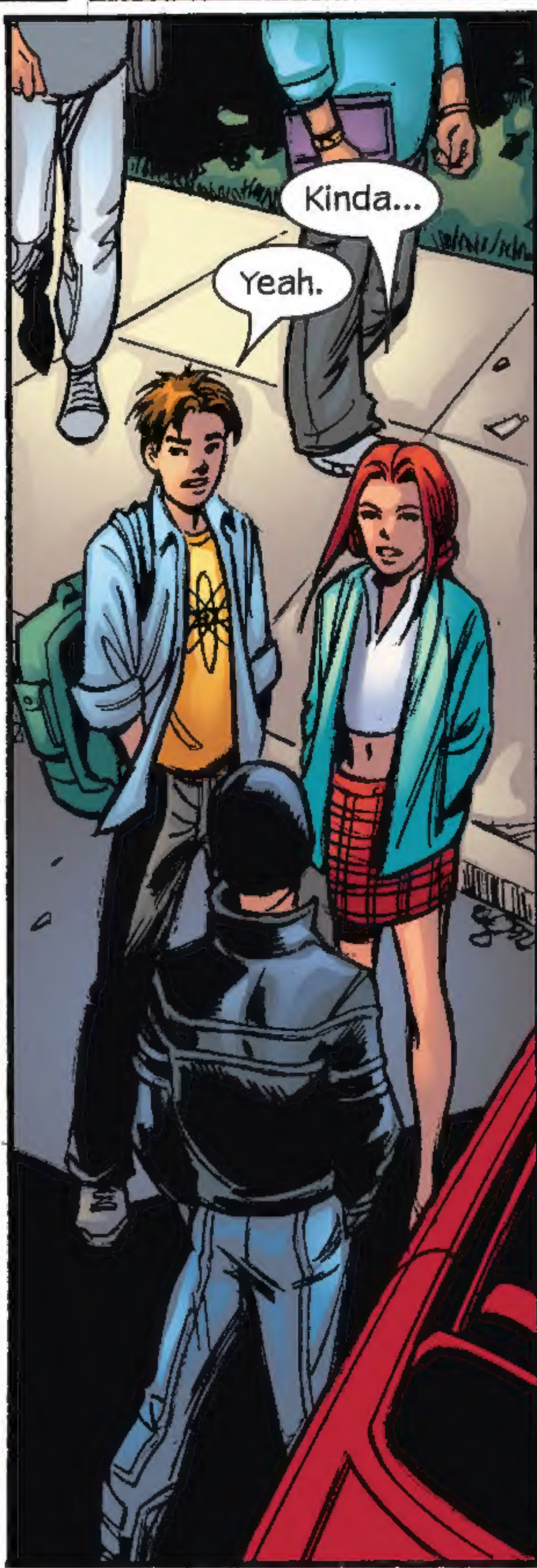
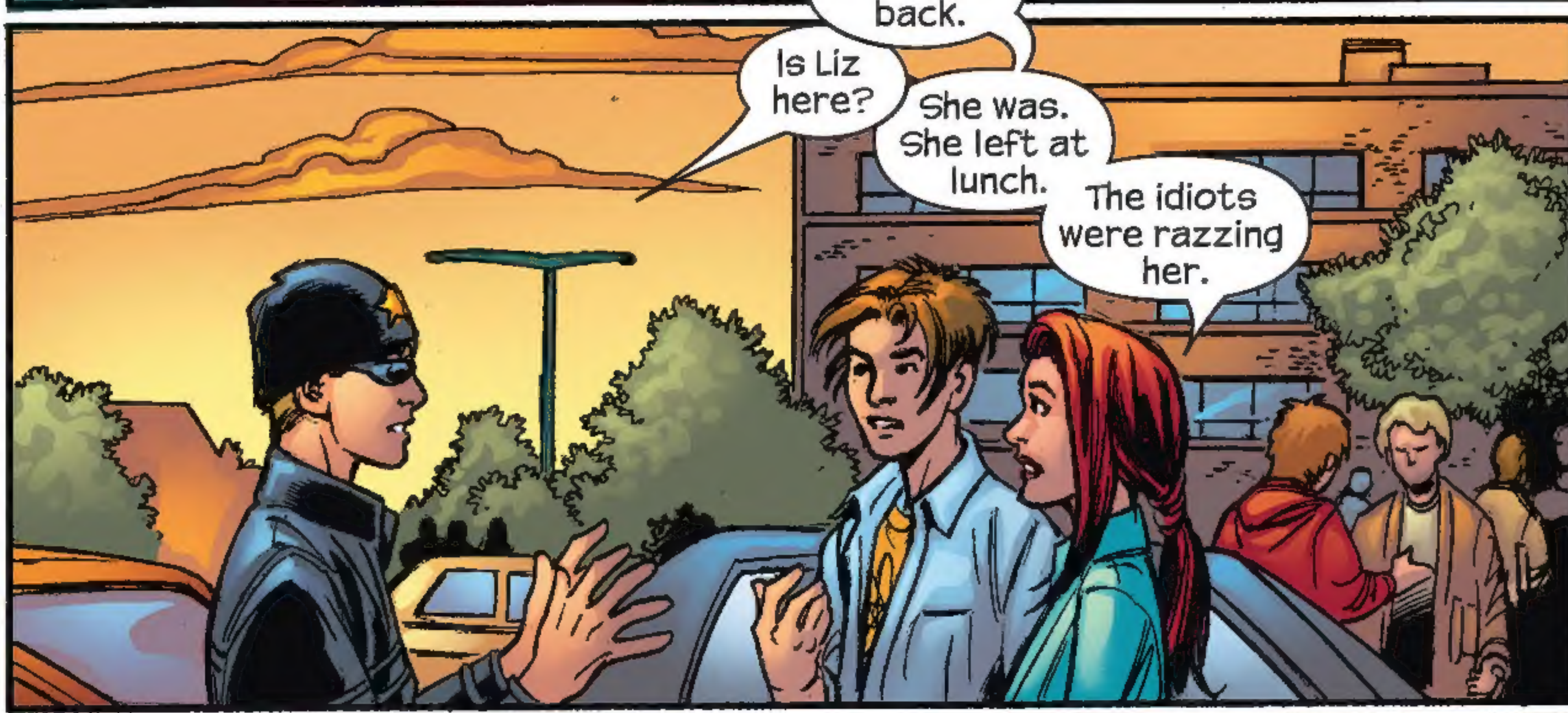
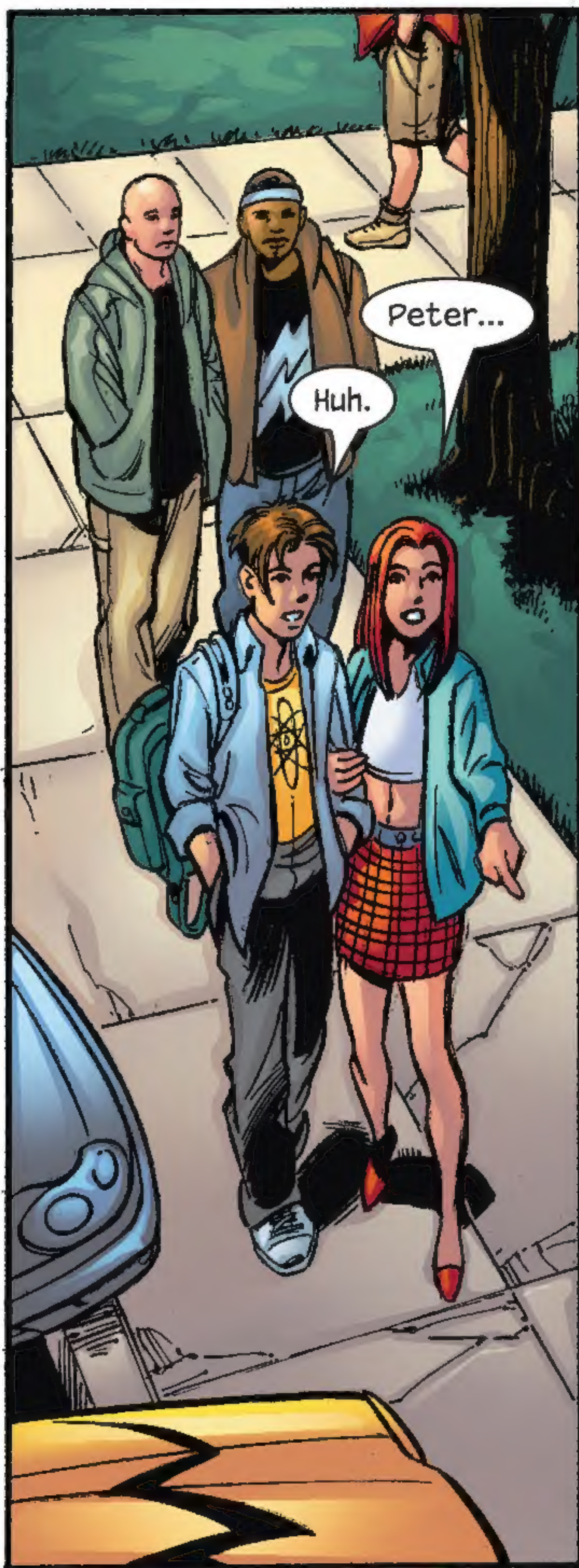
I'm
done.



What
happened?



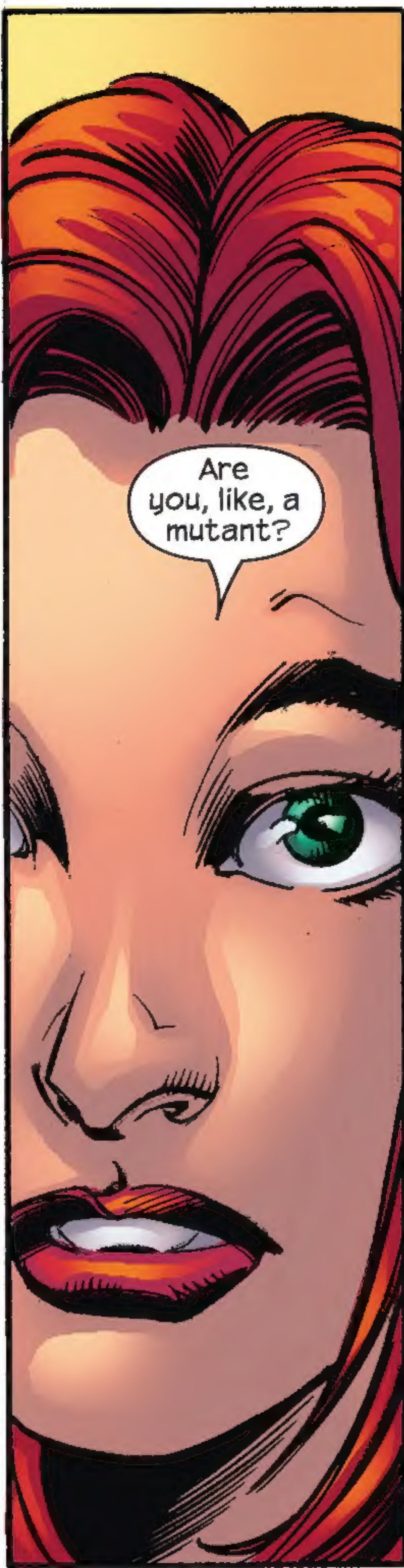






I-I'm sorry, I'm just not allowed to tell you.

I know I sound like a herb, but I'm really not allowed to.



Are you, like, a mutant?



No.

But don't, don't ask me twenty questions. I'm really not allowed to say anything.

Seriously.



I read some stuff about you online. At least I *think* it was you. Sounded like you.

You did? Oh, you mean that obnoxious fat guy's website? What's his name?

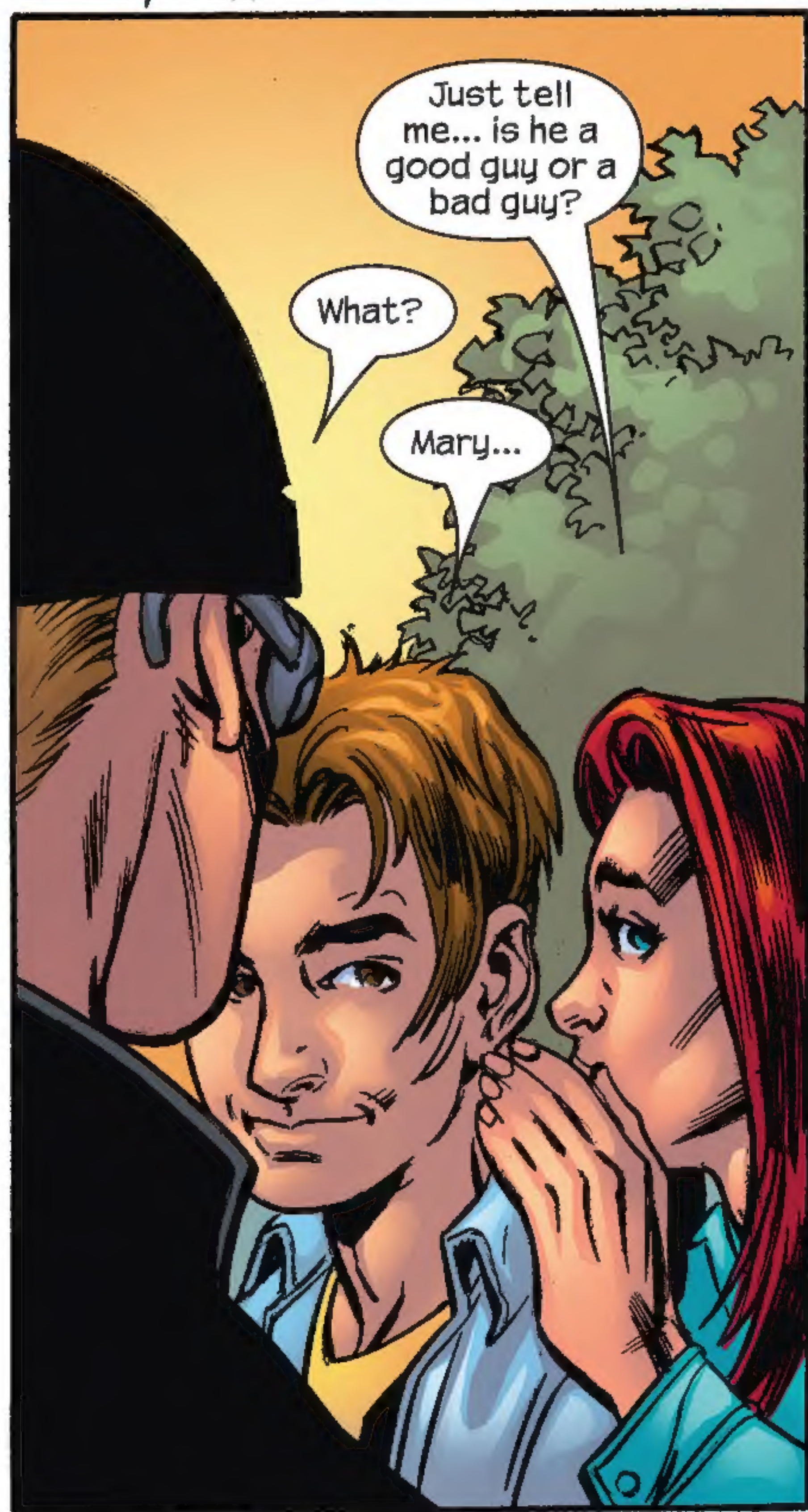
Cletus. The one about all the Ultimates and stuff?

Yeah.

I *hate* that guy. I'm mad I even know his name.

What did it say?

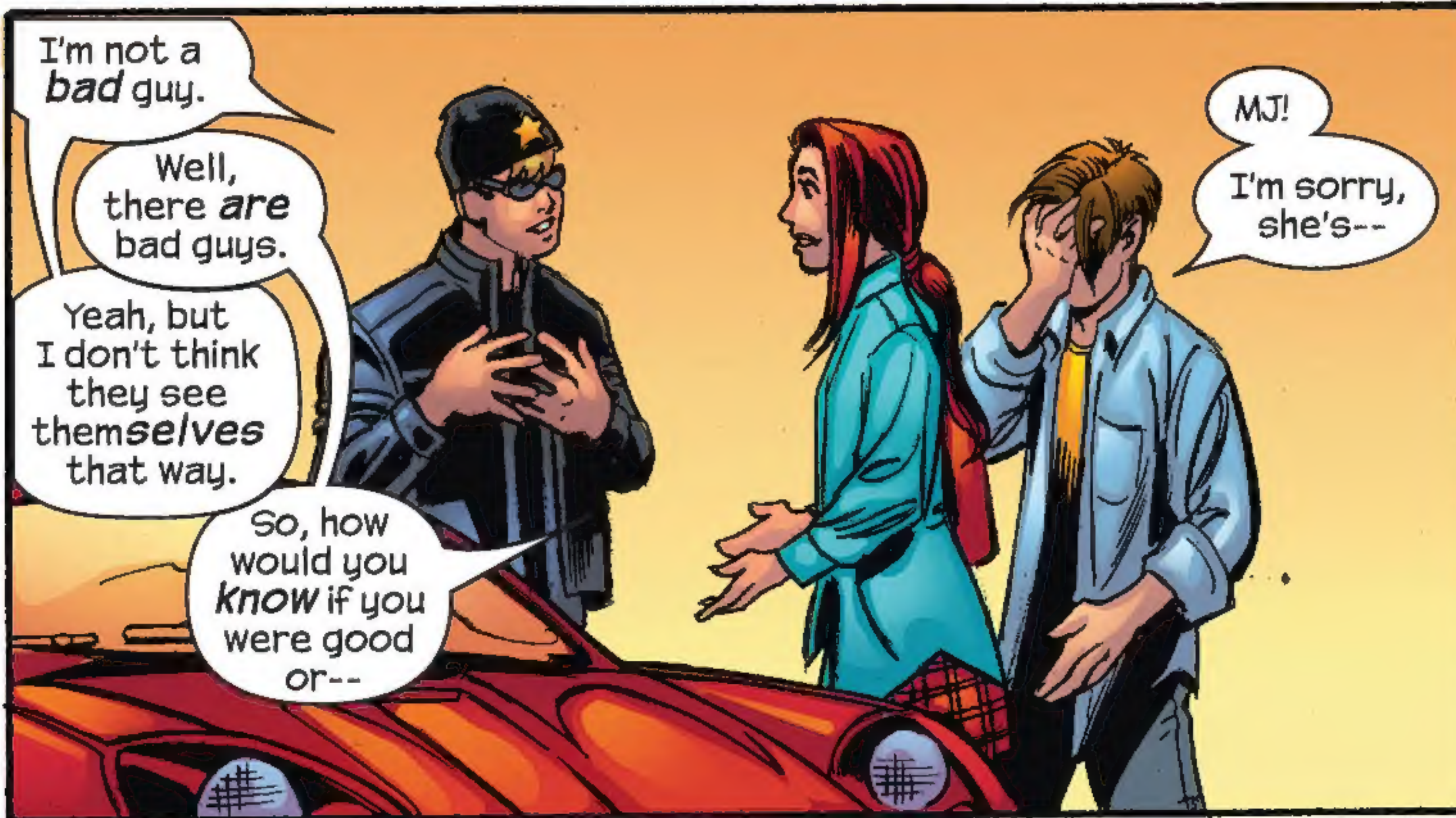
(I'll tell you later.)



Just tell me... is he a good guy or a bad guy?

What?

Mary...



I'm not a *bad* guy.

Well, there *are* bad guys.

Yeah, but I don't think they see *themselves* that way.

So, how would you *know* if you were good or--

MJ!

I'm sorry, she's--



No, it's okay. I was the one on fire.

And flying.

Yeah, how 'bout that?





I'm, uh, I'm not gonna be coming back to school.

We figured.

I- yeah.

I think I learned that I don't get to live a normal life no more.

That's it for me.

(Whoopee.)



Listen, I'll get out of your hair, I just- can you give her a message for me?

Sure.



Tell her- (oh, this is so...)

Tell her I'm sorry and that--

I *like* her, and I would have eventually told her but, you know, but really I just met you all.

I didn't do any of this on purpose or anything. It was a big mistake.



I- listen, tell her to meet me...

(Where?)

Tell her to meet me at the playground at Andru Park at five o'clock.

You know, just to talk.

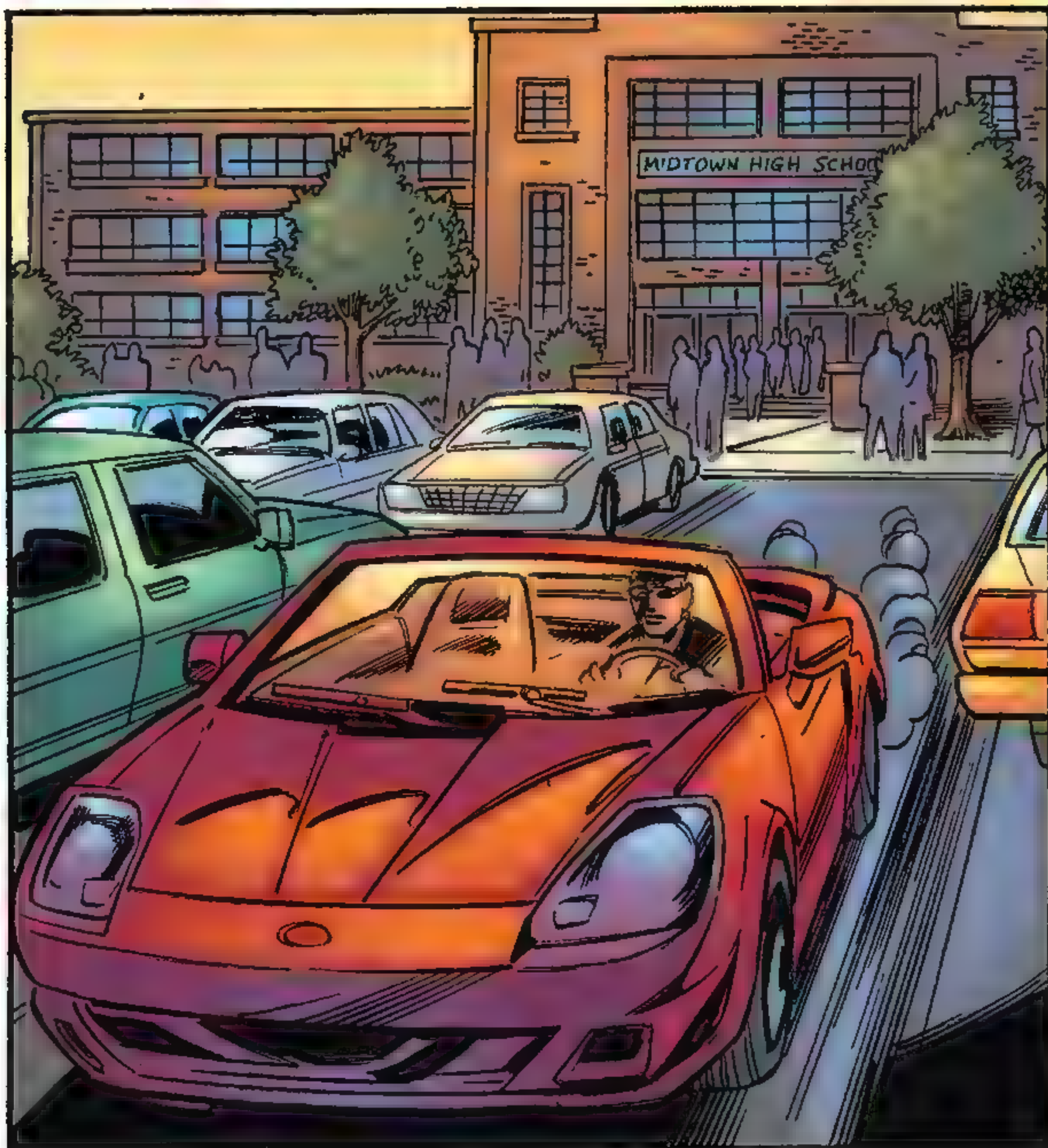


I just- tell her I thought she was cool and... cute.

Just tell her.

Okay.

Sorry, guys.



Who *was* that?

That's Johnny.

That *is* Johnny.

Is Liz going to meet him?

Oh... no way.



Poor guy. That could *so* be me if not for you.

Grrr.

What?

What goes on in your head?

It's true.

You should go talk to him.

Right.



No, you *should*! Go put on your costume and talk to him.

What are you on?

Give him a pep talk. He's a cutie guy. He feels bad.

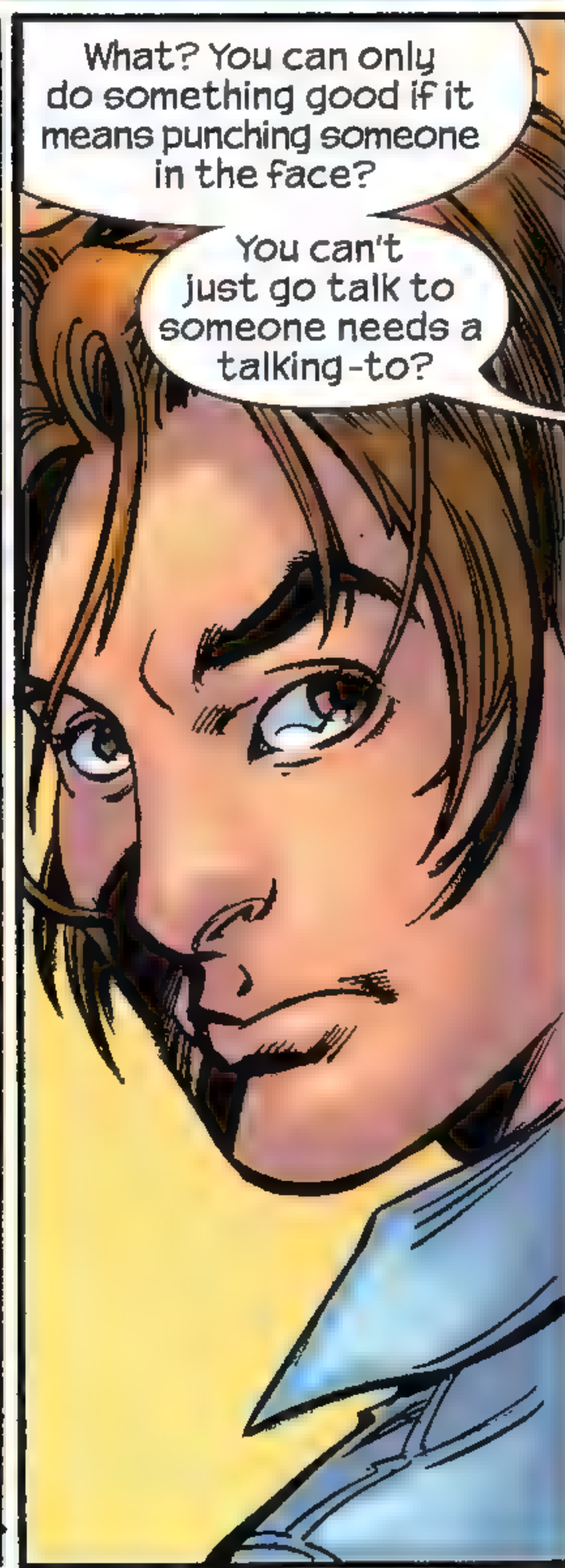
You've *so* been there. It'll make him feel better.



I am not going to go put on my costume just to--

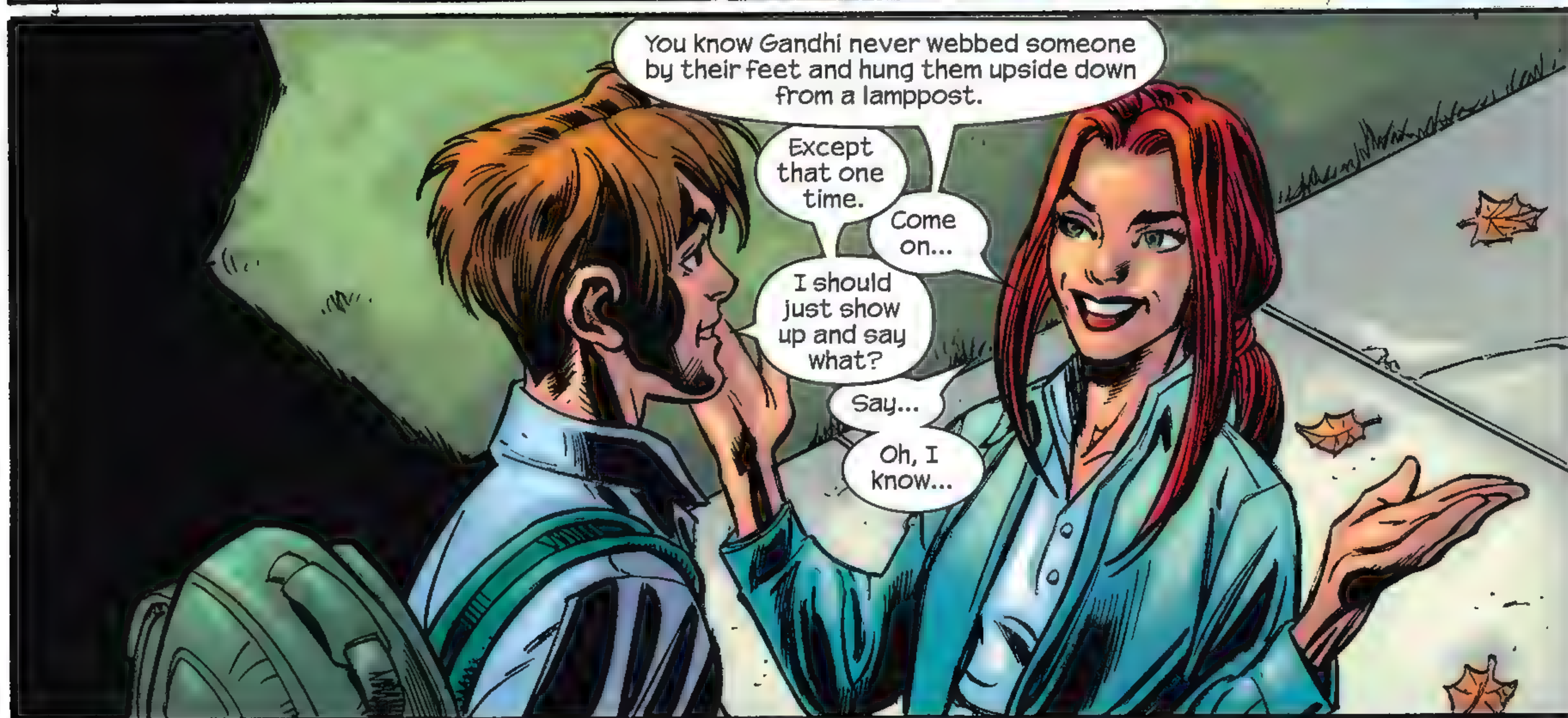
He said he was a big Spidey fan. Go make his day.

No way.



What? You can only do something good if it means punching someone in the face?

You can't just go talk to someone needs a talking-to?



You know Gandhi never webbed someone by their feet and hung them upside down from a lamppost.

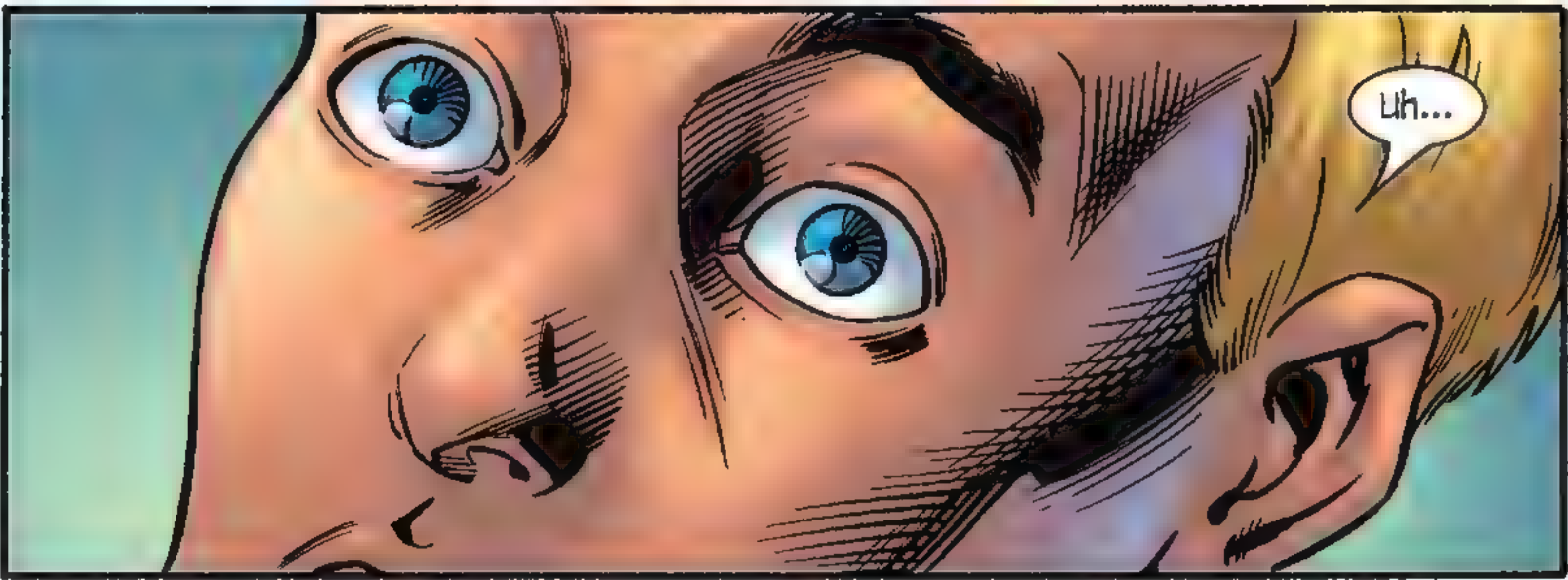
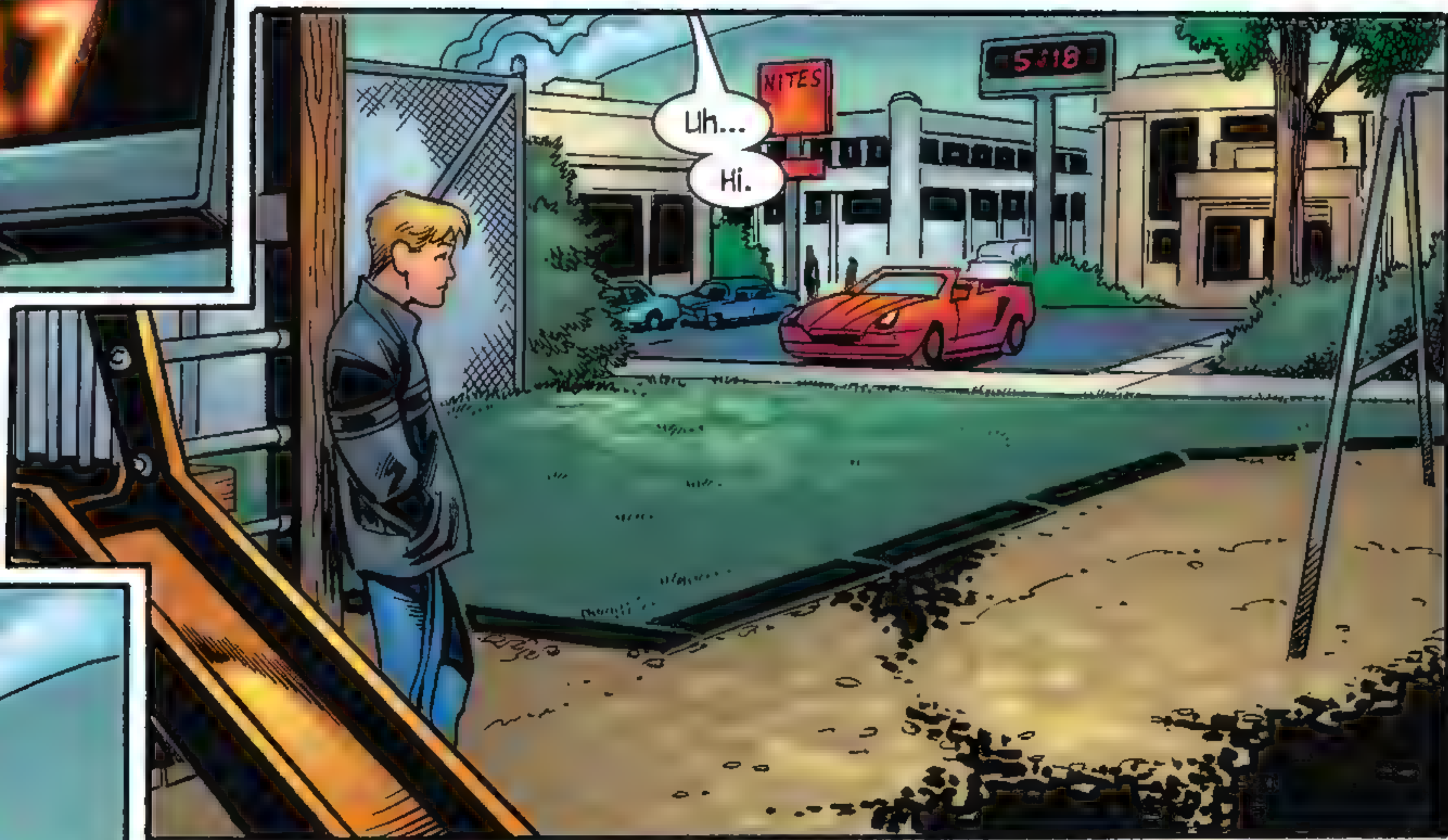
Except that one time.

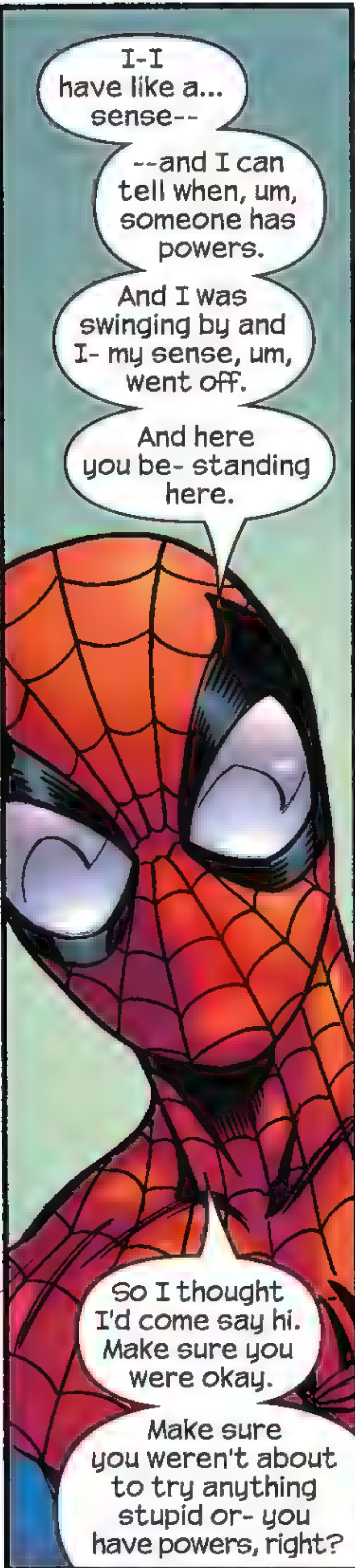
Come on...

I should just show up and say what?

Say...

Oh, I know...





I-I have like a... sense--

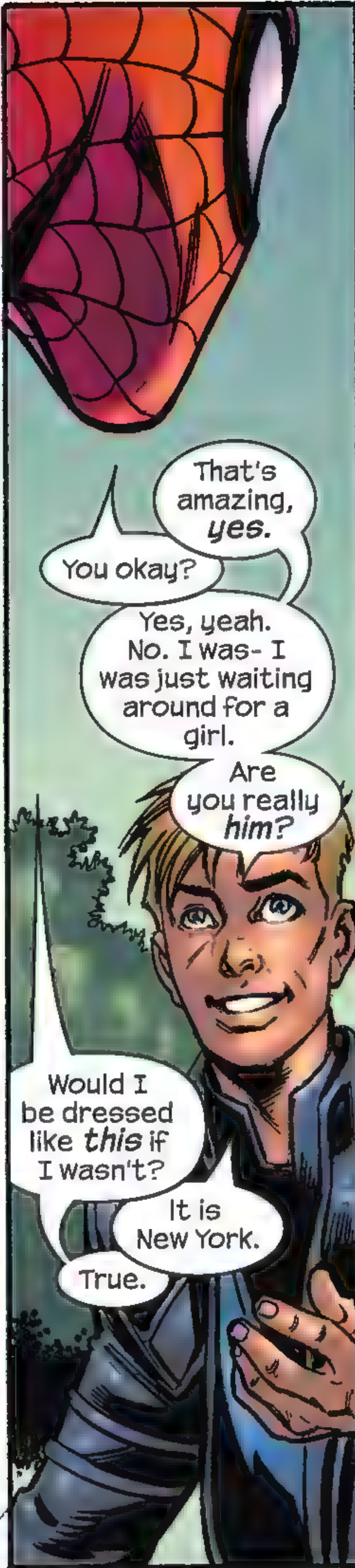
--and I can tell when, um, someone has powers.

And I was swinging by and I- my sense, um, went off.

And here you be- standing here.

So I thought I'd come say hi. Make sure you were okay.

Make sure you weren't about to try anything stupid or- you have powers, right?



That's amazing, yes.

You okay?

Yes, yeah. No. I was- I was just waiting around for a girl.

Are you really him?

Would I be dressed like *this* if I wasn't?

It is New York.

True.



Whoah!! Holy crap!

Thank you.

Wow. And you-you were just swinging by?

Yeah.



That's so cool. Dude, dude!! I'm a *huge* fan.

Really?

I really am. Johnny Storm.

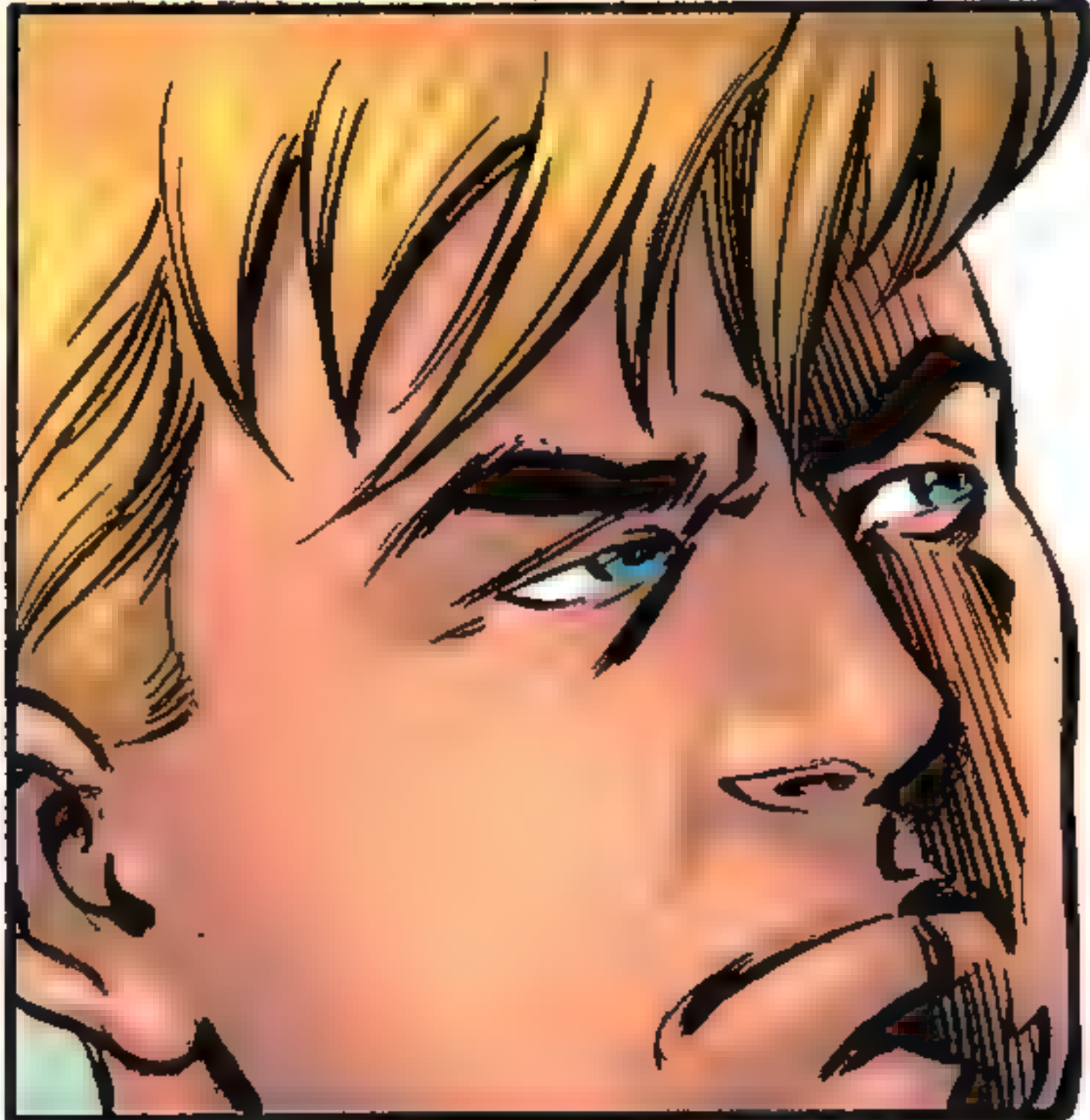
Why the press treats you like that, I will never know.



My girlfriend thinks it's the costume.

It *is* a bold statement.

So, you're okay?



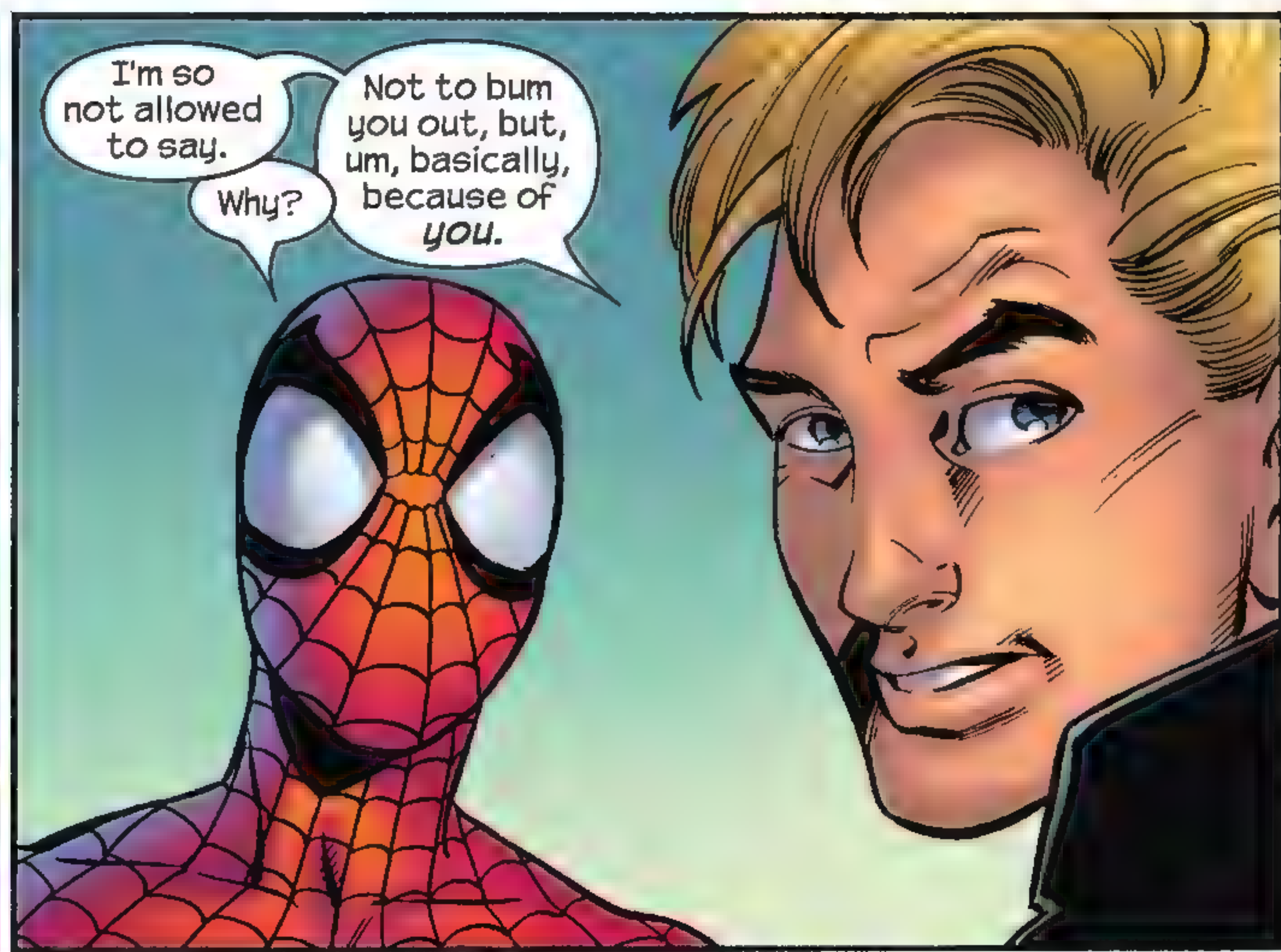
Yeah, yeah, I was just- I met this girl and I told her to meet me here and she blew me off.

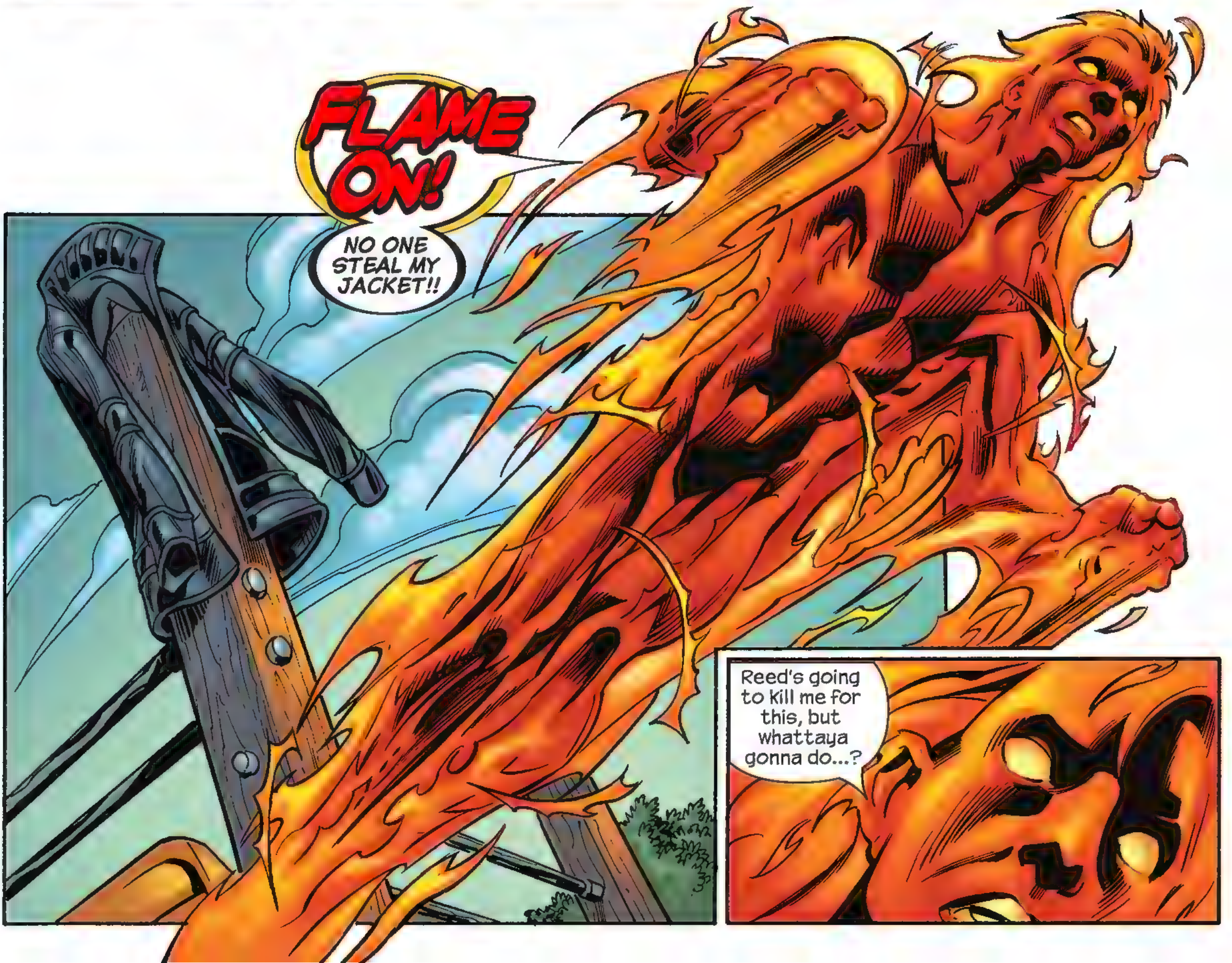
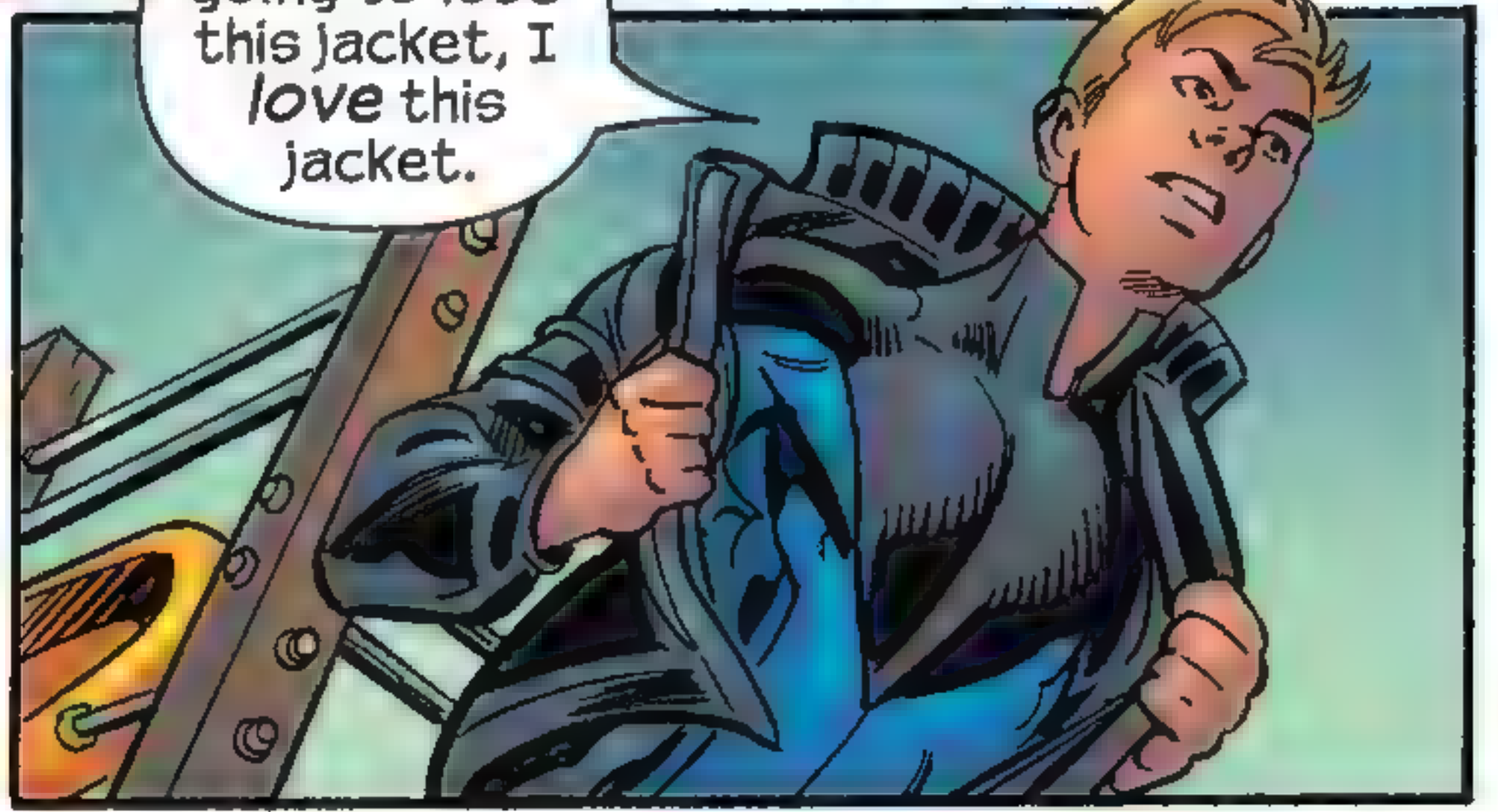
It's so freakin' annoying. I have not met *a* girl since this whole thing started.

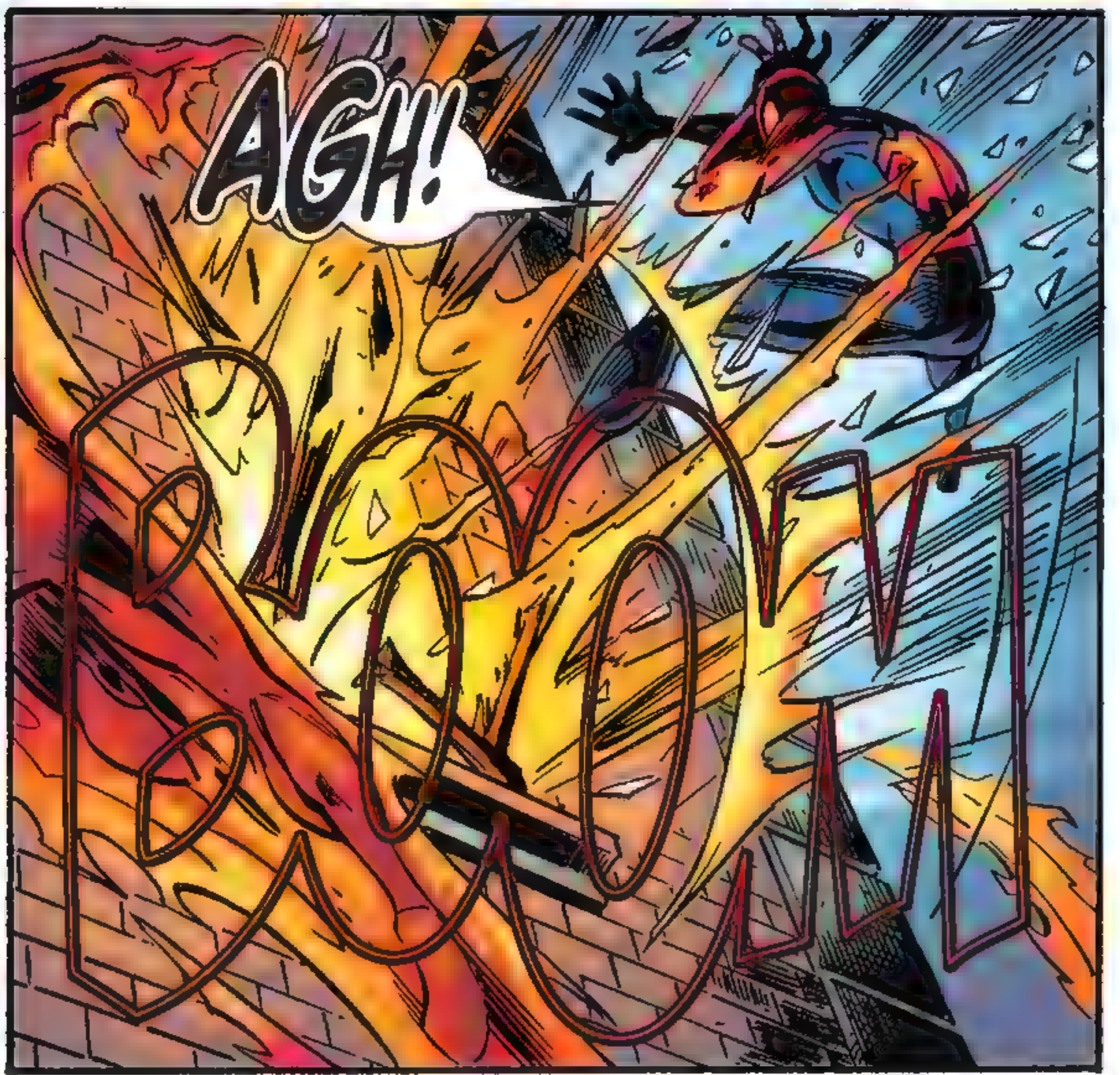


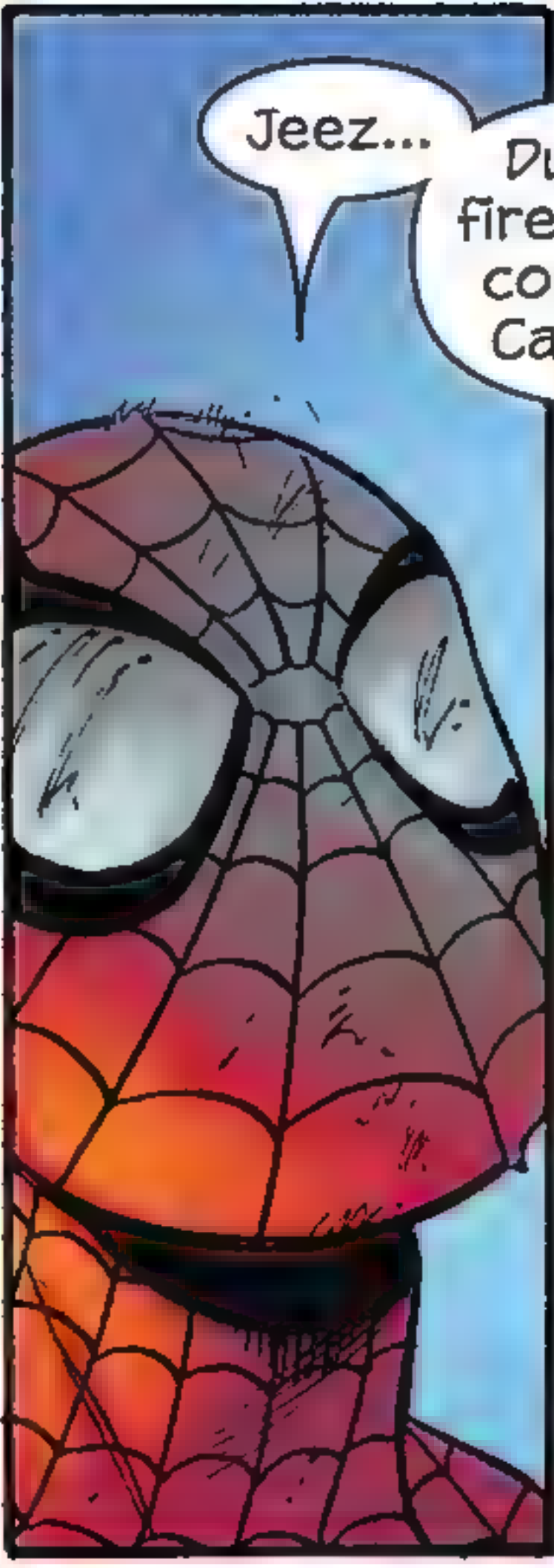
What thing?

Hey, I'm not allowed to say. But--









Jeez... Dude, the fire- can you control it? Can you--?

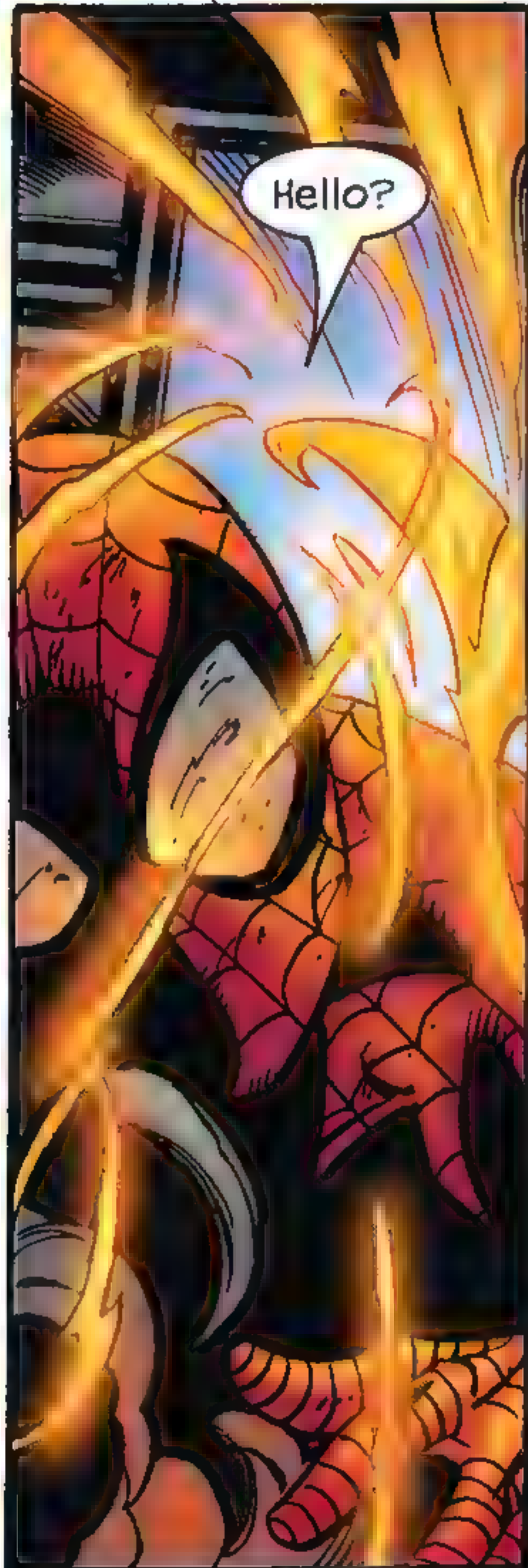


I don't know!



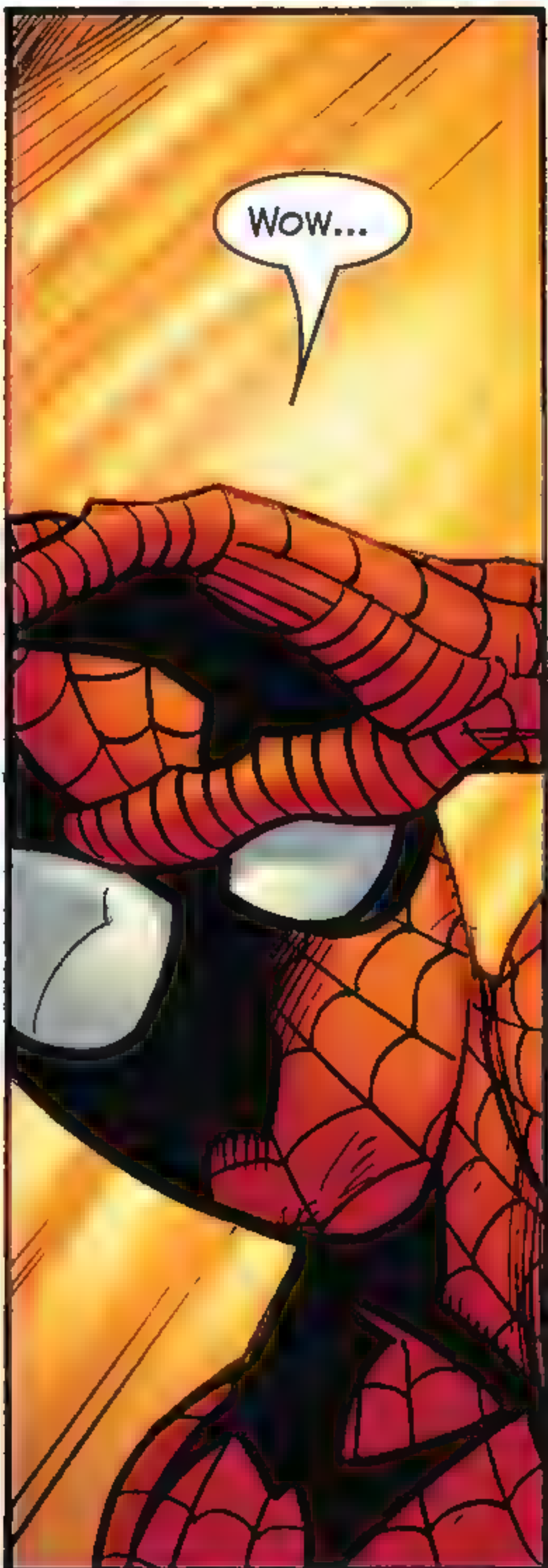
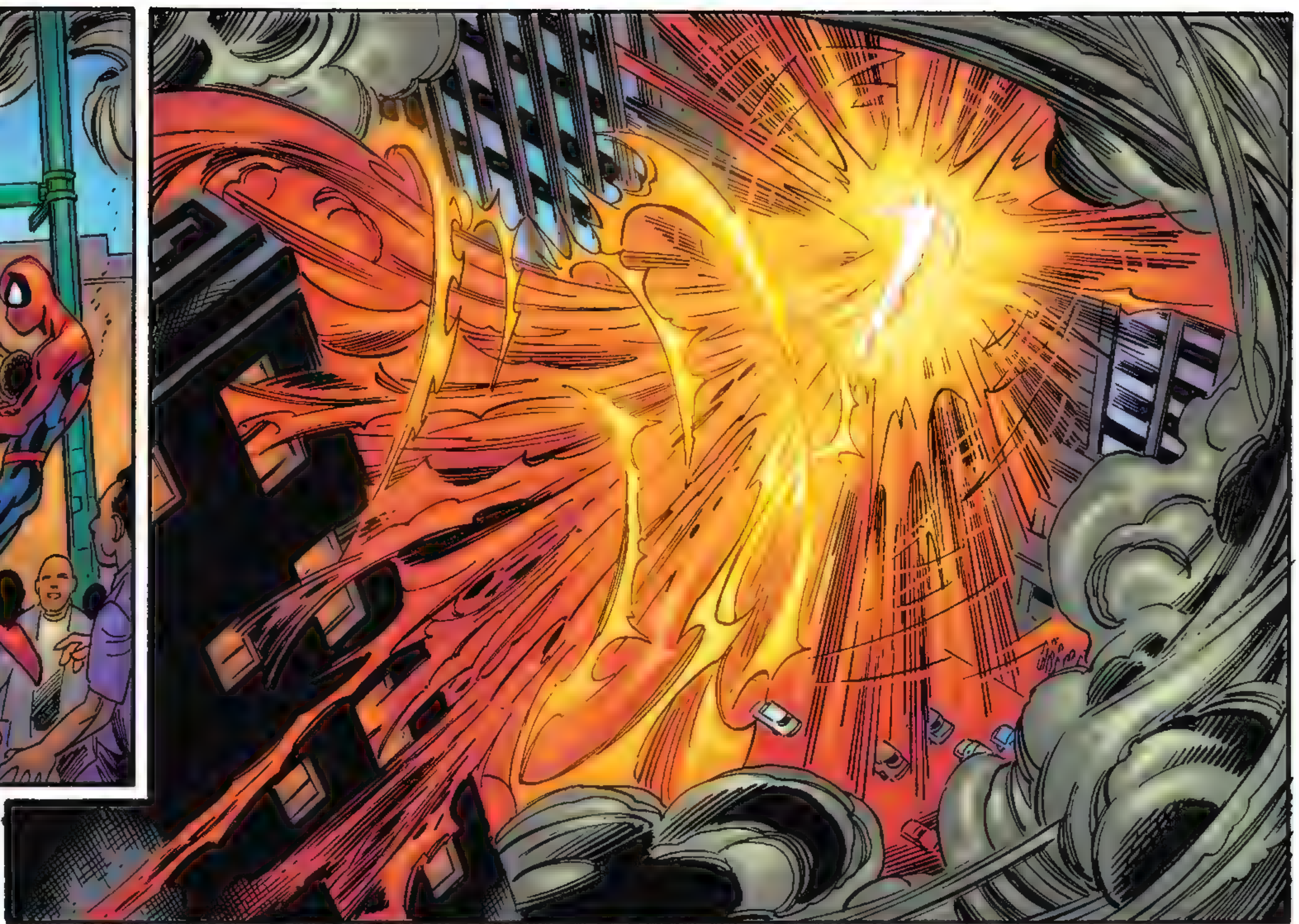
You okay?

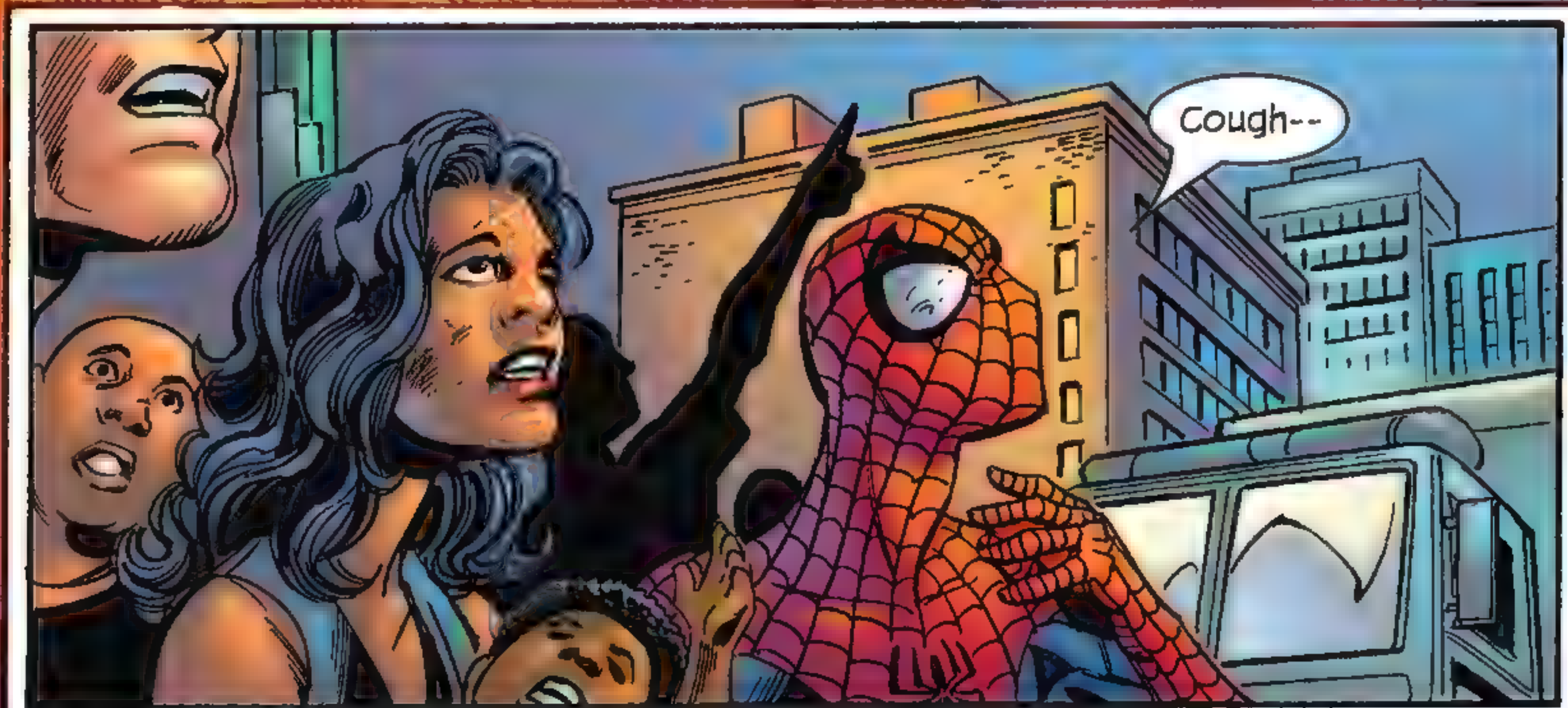
I think I am!
GO! GO!

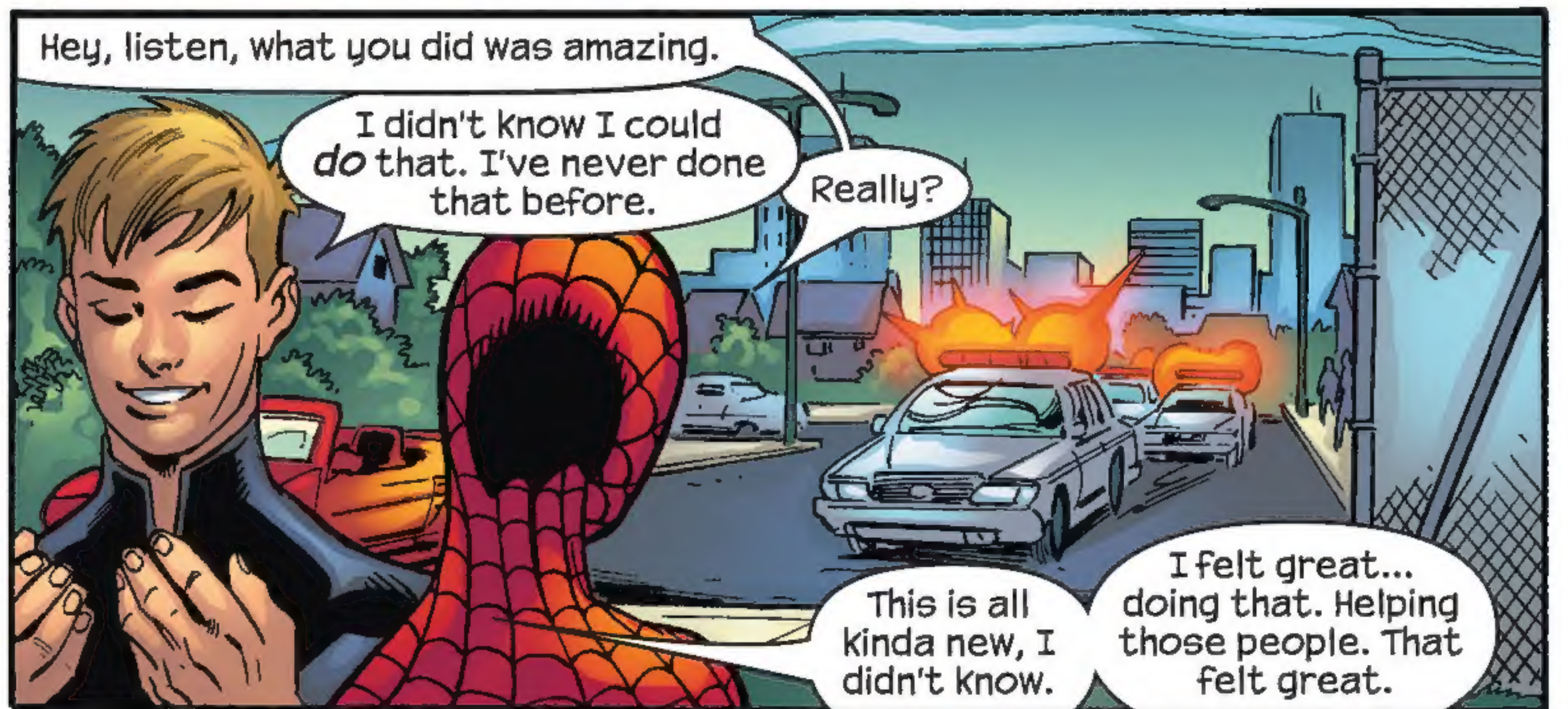
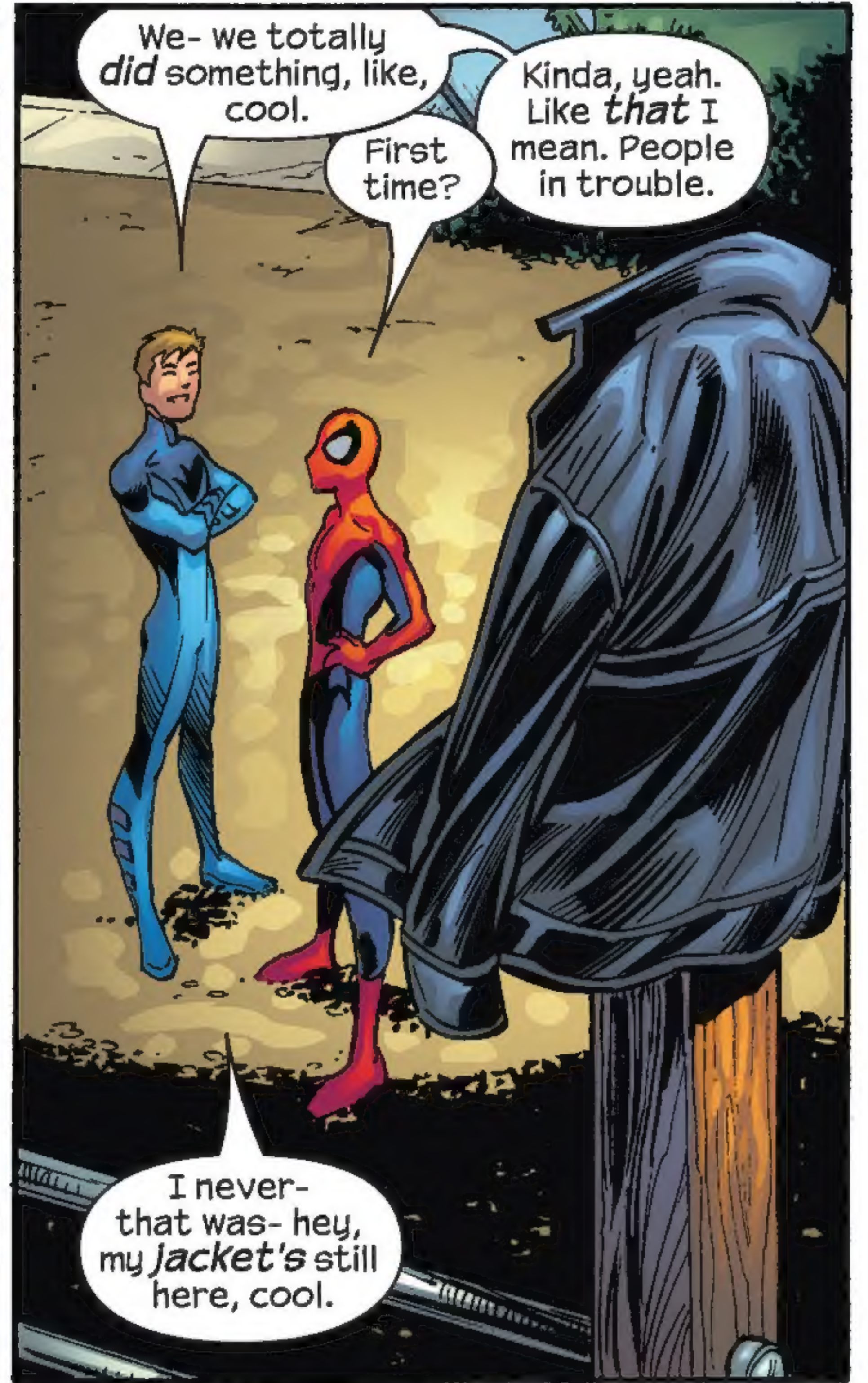


Hello?











I can't believe that.

Believe it.

There goes my jacket.

Why do they do that?



They see a flying guy on fire... they see a guy in a costume...

Half the people are happy to see us, the others are scared out of their minds because, well--

--really, I think half the world just wants to be scared of whatever they can find...

And the scared people, they just *seem* louder than the happy ones.

That's life.

I don't care. It felt good.

Good, because I was going to say, that's the trade.



What is?

The girl who didn't come today. The jacket you lost.

It's the trade. It's the cost for what you got to do today.

But it's worth it, right?

Well, yeah.



Thank you.

Oh... Okay.

So, uh, listen, eventually, when we come out to the public, swing by, okay?

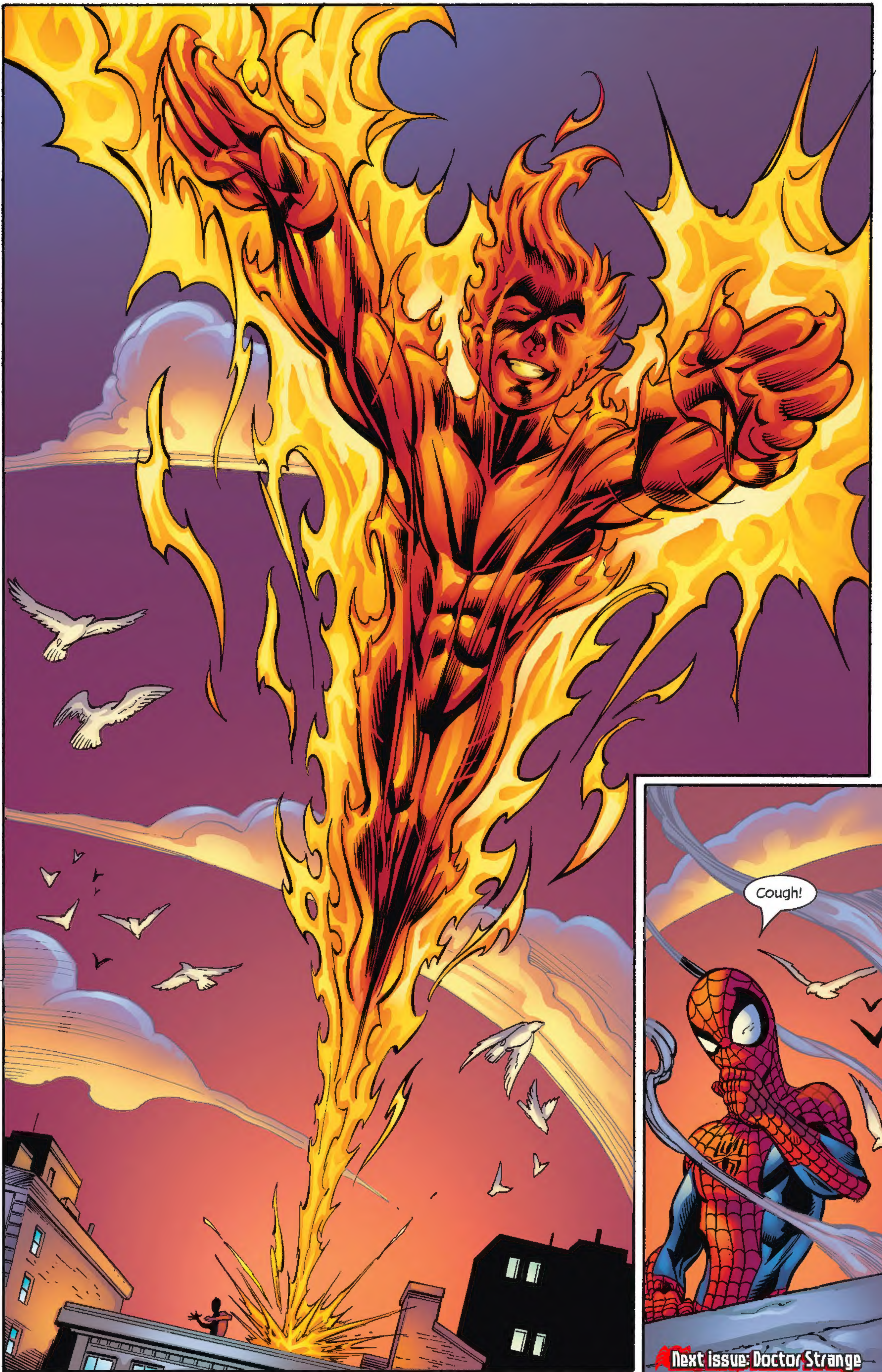
We'll do this again. This was fun.

Uh, sure, okay.

But how will I know when you've gone public?



Are you kidding?



Cough!

Next issue: Doctor Strange



SON OF

ULTRAMAN